

# THE CULTIVATOR.

FORBES.  
VAN VLIET & CO., N.Y.

THIRD

To Improve the Soil and the Mind.

SERIES

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No. XII.

## Items for Present Consideration.

Last month we endeavored to point out to our readers how, in a double sense, they were themselves the main spring of whatever of usefulness and interest THE CULTIVATOR has in times past attained, or anticipates in the future.

The moral of that article will bear repetition: *It is with more than ordinary earnestness that we ask the aid of EVERY READER in promoting the circulation of our next Volume.* This is,

Because the subscription list of THE CULTIVATOR suffered seriously during the "hard times" of a year ago. That this was owing more to the scarcity of change, and the trouble of picking up so small a sum as fifty cents from each member of a large club, is evidenced by the fact that the Co. GENT., a higher priced paper, felt the revulsion much the less injuriously of the two. It will need no little labor to recover our lost ground.

Will our friends unite to perform that labor? How little exertion on your part, reader, will gather together a list of ten or twenty subscribers for 1859! We cannot believe you will find it an unprofitable task—so highly has the testimony afforded by long experience and close observation, led us to estimate the influence of reliable Agricultural Reading. Try the experiment!

If any one is disposed to object, "What shall I get for my Fifty cents?" we suggest the following

ANSWER.—Look over the Index contained in this paper, showing what a book the year's numbers have formed, the whole contents of which are here laid before you, so that any subject can be referred to as easily as you can find a word in "Webster's Unabridged." Nearly Four Hundred pages compactly filled, requiring twelve or fifteen columns of finely packed type to enumerate and classify the hundreds of articles on the scores of subjects treated. Such a volume, at book-publishers' prices, would be cheap at two dollars!

You have the reading of the numbers as issued, each coming fresh to you with the appointed month—carrying you over the farms of your own and other States, putting you in intercourse with the shrewdest of your co-laborers, and keeping you in acquaintance with all that is new and worthy of regard, as well as warning you of humbug and deception. And if you are a member of a club, you have only to pay the postage (two cents) to obtain also

THE ANNUAL REGISTER—with its full and complete

Almanac, its hundred and odd pages of original reading matter, and its hundred and forty engravings.

Is not this SOMETHING for one's FIFTY CENTS? You can get it for nothing—

If you will lay the subject before Ten of your neighbors, and send their subscriptions with the necessary \$5.20 for the year.

You can obtain two copies free, or a copy of Thomas' *Fruit Cultivist*, or *Farm Implements*, or the bound volume of *Rural Affairs*, (the Register for 1855-6-7,) or a bound vol. of *The Cultivator* for either 1853, '54, '55, '56, '57 or '58, by sending \$10.40 for a club of Twenty *Cultivators* and *Registers* for 1859.

As some may be already provided with the REGISTER for 1859, we will send Eight copies of the CULTIVATOR alone, for \$3 a year, together with one copy of the REGISTER as a Premium to the Agent; we will send Sixteen copies of the CULTIVATOR one year for \$6, with an extra copy of both the CULTIVATOR and REGISTER as a Premium to the Agent.

### TERMS OF CULTIVATOR AND REGISTER FOR 1859.

One copy Cultivator and Register, ... 75 cents.

One copy Cultivator alone, ..... 50 cents.

Ten copies Cultivator and Register, . \$5 20

N. B. Subscribers in the British Provinces will add 6 cents a copy to the above terms, to cover U. S. postage to the lines. To them 10 copies of THE CULTIVATOR and REGISTER will cost \$5 80.

We need not remind our friends of the importance of beginning early to make out their lists. We will send the REGISTERS out to subscribers as heretofore, as soon as the orders are received, so that one who subscribes for the CULTIVATOR for 1859, will immediately receive back Twenty-five Cents of his money in the form of this valuable book.

### THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

Subscribers to THE CULTIVATOR who would prefer a weekly journal, are reminded that THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN will begin its 13th vol. with 1859. THE CULTIVATOR is made up of a portion of its contents, and the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN is referred to with confidence as standing at the head of our weekly Agricultural periodicals. It contains 16 large pages every week—making two yearly volumes (beginning respectively with January and July,) of over 400 pages each! furnished at the low price of \$2 a year, or \$2 50 when not paid in advance. Subscriptions commence at any time.

**The Country Gentleman and the Annual Register.**

The price of a SINGLE COPY of each, to one person, is \$2 25; TWO COPIES, \$4 00; FOUR COPIES, \$7 08; EIGHT COPIES, \$13 16; and any larger number at the same rate, which includes the postage on the REGISTER. Where, however, the subscribers are already supplied with the REGISTER, or do not wish it, we will send the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN alone as follows:—THREE COPIES for \$5; FIVE COPIES, \$8; TEN COPIES, \$15. SUBSCRIBERS IN THE BRITISH PROVINCES will add Twenty-six Cents a Year to the above Terms, to cover United States postage to the Canada Lines.

**"RURAL AFFAIRS"—Volume One.**

Under this title we have issued a new edition of the "ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS," for 1855, 1856, and 1857, in one volume, handsomely bound—price *One Dollar*. The Calendar pages and advertisements which originally appeared, are now omitted, but the difference in size is more than made up in the weight and quality of the paper. It forms the most beautiful and complete Museum on all Rural Subjects, ever issued at the price, and contains 440 Engravings! Agents are wanted in all parts of the country, to sell this book, to whom liberal terms will be given.

**Letter from Richmond.****The United States Ag. Society's Fair.**

RICHMOND, Va., Oct. 25.

EDITORS CO. GENT.—I arrived here in the Saturday steamer and railroad from Washington, and found Gen. TILGHMAN, President, and Maj. POOR, Secretary U. S. Ag. Society, present. A large number of persons at the hotels were present to attend the exhibition to open on Tuesday. The number of entries has been tolerably large, and the exhibition promises a good show of Short-Horns, Devons, Herefords, Ayrshires, Alderneys, and Fat Cattle; a very fine show of sheep—Fine Wools, South Downs, and Long Wools, and a very good show of swine. The display of horses, from what I have seen in their stalls, will be an excellent one in the various classes. Implements a very creditable exhibition. I am glad to see our State represented. Emery Brothers' horse power was put up to-day, and the steam saw mill for lumber regions, which attracted so much attention at our Watertown Fair, is here so improved as to be in addition a moveable farm engine, and, as I learn, in use in Virginia to great acceptance. Rathbone & Co. have their stoves on the grounds, and they will doubtless attract as much attention here as they did at our Fairs.

The grounds on which the show is held are the same heretofore occupied by the State Ag. Society, and though too small for the present exhibition, are the best arranged I have ever seen. The main show grounds contain eleven acres. Stalls for cattle, sheep and swine are arranged around the grounds adjoining the fences, or rather a substitute for fences—they are wide enough for a covered walk in front of the stalls—above the stalls places prepared for fodder are filled with hay, corn-stalks, &c., ready for use—a wide gravel way from the entrance gate at one corner, passes round the entire grounds. Tents with permanent structures for horticultural and agricultural productions are arranged—and a large tent with seats in the

form of an amphitheatre prepared for speakers and the audience. The residue of the grounds are in fine sod, divided off into figures like a fine landscape garden, on which the various implements are displayed. These plats have shrubbery upon them—and the whole effect is admirable—all the buildings are whitewashed and make a very attractive appearance. Adjoining these grounds a wide entrance leads into the horse grounds, containing four acres, with stalls on the sides arranged as the main grounds. The remaining side has tiers of seats for spectators to view the horses—the track being about one-fourth of a mile I should judge—and it is also proposed to have speaking each day at 12 o'clock, in connection with these arranged seats, which will accommodate a large number.

Mr. Cushing, the orator of the Fair, is here. To-morrow at 10 o'clock the opening services are to be held on the grounds, with an address from the President of the Virginia Central Society, and a response from Prest. Tilghman of the U. S. Ag. Society. Arrangements are being made for evening meetings, if practicable, and a banquet I understand is to close the proceedings on Friday night. How much that will improve agriculture, remains to be seen.

I have met here many leading and practical farmers from this State, Ohio, Maryland, &c., and a goodly number of ag. editors from various parts of the Union. So far as I can judge, the prospects of the Fair are reasonably encouraging, though the holding a State Fair by the State Society at Petersburgh, will, I imagine, diminish the show from Virginia, on which at the time it was instituted great reliance was placed.

I omitted to state that R. L. Allen is here from N. Y., with his mower and reaper, and W. A. Wood from Hoosick Falls.

From the opportunity I have had of conversing with gentlemen here, I am inclined to the opinion that a very decided improvement is going on among the planters of Virginia, and in many portions of the State, a thorough system is being adopted to renovate their lands, and by thorough tillage and efficient manuring, very largely increased crops are being raised. I met to-day one of the largest farmers in the State, who has about 40,000 acres. His estate is on the James River, I think, below this city some 50 miles. He informed me when he came in possession of the estate 10,000 bushels of wheat was the largest crop which had been made. He adopted a system of systematic culture, using plaster, lime, and clover, and increasing the depth of the furrow—had raised a year or two since 33,000 bushels of wheat—and that he would not rest satisfied until he succeeded in raising 45,000 bushels. He has made large outlays in buildings, having erected sixty comfortable, well-arranged dwellings for his laborers; also several barns on different parts of his estate, one of which cost him \$10,000. He is a young man, and with this determination to make his estate what it should be, will place it in such a position that his successors will find it a treasure from which support can be derived—a very desirable inheritance. J.

**HINT FOR THRASHERS.**—A French farmer has a cloth hung over his thrashing machine before the feeder, and a wooden chimney to the roof, taking away the whole of the dust while thrashing—"a cheap, useful, and benevolent invention."

**Fattening Swine.**

The chief end of swine is fatness—the great object of his life to become pork. Hence the best means of bringing the hog into a fit state for the pork-barrel &c., is an object occupying the thoughts of our farming readers, and worthy of some description in our columns. We do not propose to throw much new light on the question, but to restate facts more generally known than practiced upon by pork-growers.

That pork occupies a prominent position among the products of the country, is shown both by commercial statistics and the late census—the number of swine in the United States numbering over one-fourth more than either sheep or cattle. For domestic consumption with the farmer and laboring man, it fills an important place among the provisions secured. It is the great stand-by to be depended upon when other meats fail—and keeping long and well, and possessing the material for cooking itself, as well as a portion of the vegetable accompaniments, it will ever retain its place where economy is studied, and hearty strength-sustaining food is desired.

In the country and small villages, many families keep one or more pigs for the purpose of consuming, the slops of the kitchen, the refuse fruit and vegetables from the orchard and garden, and to furnish, after some weeks of higher feeding in the fall, a supply of meat for family use. This is true economy where it may be practiced, for much upon which swine will thrive, will otherwise be wasted from every garden and kitchen. The expense of finishing the fattening will be small, as a few bushels of corn, rye, or barley meal, mixed with sour milk, or used for thickening a mush of boiled small potatoes, pumpkins, squashes, apples, and the like, will make a fair article of pork.

Most large farmers keep from six to twenty or more swine, to turn into marketable commodity those products not otherwise to be "cashed," and also to consume more or less of the corn crop. The slops of the dairy, the refuse fruit, roots, and vegetables, are thus used up, if not at a high rate of profit, still at a remunerative one, all things considered.

To fatten swine profitably, it is important to commence early in autumn, not only to consume the material above named, but for the reason that mild weather is much more favorable to taking on flesh than that of a severer character. In very cold weather considerable food is required for the sole purpose of keeping up the animal heat, and the less need of expenditure in this respect, the more rapidly will flesh be accumulated. It is well therefore, not only to begin early, but to provide warm shelter and comfortable feeding places. A good pen is a matter of economy, for a discontented, restive animal will never fatten well, though there may be small lack in the eating power at any time. Proper sleeping apartments, dry, well littered and well ventilated, are also requisite. Pure air, it should ever be remembered, is of importance to every animal which breathes.

Experiments unite in showing the importance of cooking food for swine. Stephens remarks in "*The Book of the Farm*," that "it has been ascertained that pigs fatten much better on cooked than on raw food. This being the case, it is only a waste of time and material, to attempt to fatten pigs on raw food of whatever kind; for though some sorts of food fatten

better than others in the same state, yet the same sort when cooked, fattens much better than in a raw state." This is especially the case with the various fruits and vegetables; grain, ground and slightly fermented is thought by some experimenters to be equal to meal in a cooked state. It may be that it is better relished, and hence more is consumed, and it may be well to remark that the management in feeding which tends to the largest consumption of food without injury to the health of the animal, is generally the most economical.

The comparative value of different grains for fattening pork has not been so closely tested as is desirable, but without question, Indian corn stands first on the list. Rye and barley come next—and late researches, as well as experiments by practical farmers, give the latter grain a more prominent position than it has heretofore held in this respect. We have made considerable use of barley meal for feeding purposes, the past year, and are so well satisfied, that we shall use it more largely in future. We would suggest to farmers its employment for early feeding, before the corn crop matures, believing they will find it profitable to do so.

In regard to feeding, it is important to supply hogs, and all fattening animals, with just as much as they will consume without wasting, either by leaving, or by imperfect digestion. If no more is given than just enough to support the natural growth, no fat can be accumulated. To give them as much as they can use and no more, is the true economy, for as above hinted, the quicker the fattening process can be properly performed, the less the expense in care and material.

The full discussion of our subject—including the proper age of fattening—the previous rearing and management—the preparation of food—the arrangement of pens—the attention which should be given to the important item of their manure, etc.—must be left for the future. We invite correspondents to give us their views on these questions.

**Draining.**

A Canada correspondent writes, "I have been draining, 'according to the custom of the country,' which is to make a cut two and a half feet deep and one and a half wide, and fill with stones. This I find to be very expensive, and I wish to know through THE CULTIVATOR, if there is any cheaper mode. You need not recommend tiles, for they are not to be had here—but if a different form of cut and filling will suit better, I would be happy to know something more on the subject."

Ditching is unavoidably an expensive operation. If it were not so, every good farmer would soon have all his land thoroughly underdrained. It rarely happens that the cutting of the drain only, can be done for less than twenty-five cents per rod, if two and a half to three feet deep. Yet costly as it is, it commonly pays for the cost by the increase of crop in two to three years, and sometimes one year makes a full return of all expense. Our correspondent could probably get his ditching done at less cost by cutting the drains a foot wide instead of one and a half, as at present. It is only where a very large quantity of water is to pass through it, that more than ten inches or a foot at the bottom is needed for a stone channel. If the descent is rapid, a narrower drain is needed than where the

ditch is nearly on a level. The character of the stone used also controls the width. If there is plenty of flat stone, a much narrower cut will answer as shown in in the Illustrated Register 1859. See also an article in The Cultivator for March last, p. 92.

A brush drain may sometimes be made cheaply; and where the digging is very easy, and the quantity of water small and the descent rapid, it answers a good purpose for many years.

#### Pitting Potatoes and other Roots.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Potato harvesting being now at hand, a few suggestions may not be out of place on that important operation, as a great many are lost by not being properly stored. Potatoes should be dug in dry weather. When dry, put them in heaps six feet wide, and as high as they will run, covering them with straw or any dry material. This is to sweat them. Let them remain in this pit (as it is generally called,) for ten days or a fortnight, after which sort them carefully, keeping the large and small separate. This is important. If they are put up together, the small ones will rot from the heat of the large ones; they, not being ripe, are liable to rot; consequently cause the large ones to rot.

When pitting them, if they are not dry and perfectly ripe, quick lime should be well sprinkled among them when put in permanent pits. Mark your ground three feet wide; then throw earth on this about three inches thick, which elevates the foundation above the surface; beat this well with the back of the spade to harden it; then lay on lime an inch thick. It is a general practice to lay straw under the potatoes. This in all cases should be avoided, as the straw, from the moisture of the earth and potatoes, becomes wet; the potatoes laying on this will rot, or commence growing if it should in the least heat. You then commence laying on your potatoes, bringing them up so as to get but one potato in width on the top. You then lay on them a foot or more of dry straw; then commence at the bottom of the potatoes to lay the earth on, two feet thick all around, drawing it in at the top to eighteen inches. This should then be covered with boards, (in case of rain,) and let stand for three or four days to allow the steam to pass off. I should have remarked that, in covering with the earth, you must tramp it down so that there will be no chance of its cracking or settling. When you get to the top and finishing off, a man gets on the top with a spade, and as the earth is thrown to him, he forms the top by rounding it and beating the mould well down.

After the pit is completely frozen, take leaves and cover it over from one to two feet deep. To keep these on the pit, lay some coarse grass, straw, branches, or any thing to prevent them blowing off. The advantage of this mode of keeping potatoes consists in the air being excluded, and your potatoes in the spring come out of such heaps as fresh as when they were stored; whereas when they are put in a cellar where the air acts on them, in the spring they are soft, and will not command the price that pitted potatoes will.

In pitting ruta bagas, carrots, mangold wurzel, &c., you can with safety allow them to be four feet wide at bottom, drawing them to a head as potatoes; they should not be more than four feet. I have tried them at five, but found they heated, and was obliged to

take them down. By covering them with straw six inches, fifteen inches of earth will be sufficient.

On the top of these pits, in closing up, there should be chimneys left every ten feet apart. This is done by placing a sheaf of straw on the straw that covers the bulbs, and filling the earth around it to the level of the pit top, letting it stand all the winter. This allows all the moisture to pass off, and prevents their heating. These pits require no outside covering like potatoes. If they should get a little frost it will not injure them. They also should be stored in dry weather. If your roots get frozen, by throwing them into cold water for a short time it will draw it all out. There is no time lost in this, as they should in all cases be washed or scraped clean before feeding, either raw or boiled.

GERALD HOWATT. Newton, N. J.

#### Solution of Bones in Sulphuric Acid.

##### AN ERROR CORRECTED.

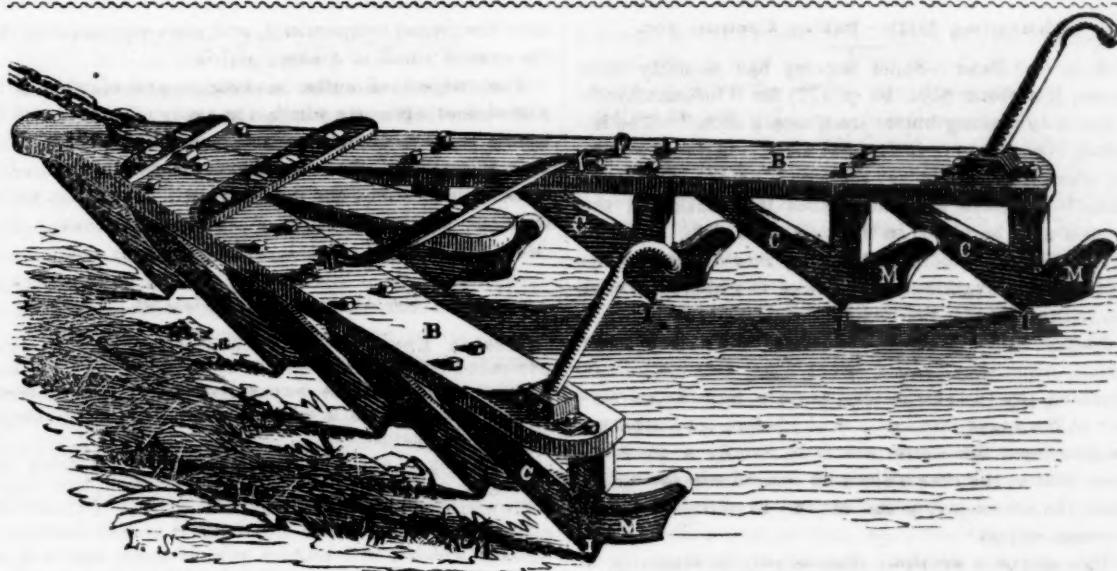
MESSRS. EDITORS—In your article on "Composts—Muck and Dissolved Bones," which appeared in the Country Gentleman of the 23d of September, a statement is made in relation to the solvent powers of sulphuric acid on bones, which experience does not warrant, and which should be corrected for the benefit of those who may desire to prepare the valuable compost recommended.

The statement was copied by you from Mr. Brown's article on Muck, in the Patent Office Report for 1856, and is as follows:

"Bones may readily be brought into forms of paste by applying five pounds of sulphuric acid to every 100 pounds of bone. If the bones have been ground, half this quantity will be sufficient."

Mr. Brown could not, I am satisfied, have tried this himself, but must have taken it from some work upon agriculture, and in copying made a mistake as to the quantity of acid necessary. Prof. Norton recommends the use of from 50 to 60 pounds of acid to every hundred pounds of bones, when whole bones are used, and from 25 to 45 pounds of acid to the hundred of bone dust. If just enough acid is used to decompose the whole of the bone phosphate in the bones, about thirty pounds of acid to the hundred pounds of bones would be necessary; but in this case all writers agree in saying that the bones must be *ground fine*. Five pounds of acid, to which has been added two or three times its volume of water, would scarcely wet the bones, much less reduce them to a paste; and ten pounds of acid and water, the quantity recommended for one hundred pounds of ground bones, would not wet the mass at all.

But Mr. Brown, in common with the lamented Prof. Norton, and various other writers, has fallen into a grave error in supposing that whole bones can be reduced at all by sulphuric acid. The structure of the bone is too close for the acid to penetrate into the interior, and therefore its action is confined to the surface, making the process very slow—too slow for practical purposes. A simple trial will prove the truth of what I say. I have tried it repeatedly, and speak from my own knowledge. On one occasion I took some bones that had been picked up about the yard, broke them into pieces of from two to four inches in length, and treated them to the quantity of sulphuric acid recommended by Prof. Norton. I turned over and examined the mixture from day to day, and from week



Shares' Patent Coulter Harrow

The above cut gives a representation of Mr. Shares' Coulter Harrow. The committee of the Conn. State Ag. Society, who examined it at their State Fair, speak of it as follows:—"The frame work is similar to a three-cornered harrow. The advantages lie in construction of the teeth. The coulters are broad thin plates of iron, inclining forward to prevent clogging. A small mold-board is attached to the lower end of the

coulter, the whole acting like a double gang of plows. It puts all the seed under, any depth required; and no matter how many stalks or loose trash there is, there appears to be no liability to clog. This harrow was tried upon the sod. Instead of tearing and turning up the sod, it pulverized the surface, similar, but much more thoroughly than the cultivator. For covering grain it must rank next to the drill." Messrs PEASE & EGGLESTON of this city, have bought the right for this State. Price from \$10 to \$17.

to week, and still I had a mass of hard bones. It is true, the outside came off gradually, but the process was so slow that months would have been necessary to effect the complete breaking down of the bony structure.

Since the appearance of the article referred to, I have tried a mixture of equal weights of bone and sulphuric acid, the latter having been properly diluted; this mixture has now stood for a number of days without the bones evincing any sign of yielding, except upon the outside. I have also tried the proportion recommended by Mr. Brown; after standing more than a week, I can see very little more apparent effect upon the bones, than would have been produced by pouring so much water upon them.

In conclusion I would remark that bones, whether treated with sulphuric acid or not, or whether used in composts, as top-dressings, &c., should be in a fine state of division to be effective, the finer the better. WM. GILHAM. *Laboratory Va. Mil'y Institute, Oct. 14.*

#### Culture of the Peach.

MESSRS. TUCKER & SON—I have for some time been collecting whatever information I could get in regard to the peach tree, and in continuation of the effort I have concluded to trouble you with the following questions:—First, What character of soil is best adapted to the propagation of the peach? Secondly, The best location or exposure? Thirdly, How should I commence an orchard—by planting the trees or seed? and when is the best time? Fourthly, What varieties do you recommend as being the most profitable? 5. I should be pleased to have your opinion as to the best variety of currants for making wine, and any other information in regard to propagation or management. B. B. R. *St. Joseph, Mo., Sept., 1858.*

I. Any soil will raise peaches that will grow good

corn, and which has a good drainage, the climate being right. Light soils, or those of a gravelly tendency, and especially those with a gravelly subsoil for natural drainage, are generally preferred; but our own observations lead to the belief that a soil in which a good share of clay occurs, forming a fertile *medium loam*, is best. If it has but little clay, the trees are not so long lived; and the only objection to a strong clayey loam, is the usual want of natural drainage in such soils. Tiles laid three feet below the surface every 25 feet, will obviate the difficulty. A dry compact soil is freest from frost—a peaty and spongy one is especially liable.

2. The best location is along the margin of our freezing lakes or rivers, across which the prevailing winter winds blow and become softened of their keenness by contact with the open water. Away from water, elevated situations are best—warm sheltered valleys worst, because they become warmest in summer and promote a succulent late growth, which does not ripen well for enduring winter, and such valleys, being filled with the cold air which settles at their bottom during cold nights, are most liable to intense frosts. Hence elevated spots always are surer of crops than low places.

3. Expose the peach stones, *mixed with earth or sand*, to the freezing and thawing of winter—in spring crack the stones, and plant the kernel an inch or two in depth, being careful that the kernel does not dry in the air.

4. Serrate Early York, Cooledge's Favorite, Crawford's Early, Poole's Melocoton, Ward's Late Free.

5. We know nothing of wine-making, but suppose the red currant (common red, or Red Dutch) the best, as being the sharpest and highest flavored.

## Churning Milk—Bitter Cream, etc.

EDS. CO. GENT.—Some inquiry has recently been made, (Co. Gent. Sept. 16, p. 177) for "information in relation to making butter from sweet milk." The inquirer "wishes to resort to that method in damp weather, when they cannot get the cream except in a bitter state." Perhaps some additional information on the process may be useful in the case alluded to, and others of like character, and having recently given the matter some examination, we take the liberty to offer the following hints thereupon.

Butter cannot be made from *sweet* milk or from *sweet* cream, while they remain *sweet*—they become sour in churning (by the rise in temperature, and the conversion of the sugar into lactic acid,) before the butter separates from the buttermilk.\* It is only a question, then where the cream shall be soured—in the milk-pans, the cream-jar, or the churn—to *sour buttermilk* it comes at last.

This question we shall discuss only incidentally in this connection, merely remarking that it is thought that in hot weather, the best quality of butter is produced from churning cream before it sours, well cooled, and performing the operation in a leisurely manner. From forty to eighty minutes is none too little time to make from cream, *sweet* when put in the churn, the best super-extra butter. Other conditions, we need not add, must be favorable to secure this result.

A Broome county dairyman, who took a premium at our State Fair, on butter churned from milk, lets his "milk stand until it begins to get thick or 'loppered,' then empties into the churn and tempers with hot or cold water, according to the weather, before churning." In hot weather, those who churn the milk keep it as cool as it may be—while in cool, damp weather they would warm the milk-room artificially, to hasten the process of souring. Some go so far as to add a quantity of buttermilk to each pan of milk when strained, for this purpose. If the temperature is too low, the cream rises but slowly and imperfectly, and it may be that churning would, by increasing the warmth, so hasten the process as to prevent that bitterness too often the result of long standing. This, as far as we can see, would be the only gain in the case of your correspondent. Whether it would be better to provide artificial heat, or to gain heat at the expense of the labor required to churn a large quantity of milk, he can very easily decide.

Our own experience in butter-making from cream, has shown us that *artificial warmth* is the best means of inducing cream to rise in cool, damp weather, and that if some means is not employed, the cream is either bitter or does not fully rise, and that the product of butter is inferior both in quantity and quality. A temperature which will secure the souring of the milk in thirty-six hours, with us, produces the most and best cream; less or more time decreases the product as well as injures its quality. An autumn and winter milk-room, opening from a room in which fires were constantly kept when needed for comfort, would best se-

\* So say the chemical writers, but any one who has milked a good cow in winter, has seen little globules of butter along the sides of the pail, and has found them in the strainer through which the milk had been poured. Very rich milk will produce some butter while *sweet*, under these and similar circumstances—the film of curd holding the globule of butter being broken by agitation. H.

cure the proper temperature, and most economically in the case of small or medium dairies.

The subject of butter-making is one of wide and varied bearings—one which the study of years would hardly serve to elucidate—and one in which the writer finds something to be learned every day of his life. It is to be hoped that our dairymen will favor you with frequent communications of their experience. H. Maple Hill, N. Y., Oct. 1, 1858.

## Cultivation of Orchards.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Will you or some of your experienced contributors, inform me through the columns of your most valuable paper, how I can best protect fruit trees from stock while the land on which they stand is in pasture?

Intending to plant in fruit a piece of land which is too stony and steep for constant cultivation, but very light and rich, and finely adapted to fruit, I think of setting four stakes about a foot apart around the tree, against which I will build a pile of rocks, say to the height of three or three and a half feet, and of sufficient circumference to prevent the trees being reached by horses, cows, &c.

Will trees so walled about do well? and what kinds will do best? Is there a cheaper and better plan where the rocks are on the ground?

I find that the sweepings of the hen-house drive away the borer, and greatly improve the health and productiveness of the peach tree. Will guano do as well? and what quantity would be safe? "M. CERVUS." Front Royal, Warren Co., Va.

We would not in any case recommend the turning of cattle into orchards, and especially into young ones. All newly set trees should be well cultivated for several years; and the cultivation can be continued afterwards; the amount and increased value of the crop will more than repay the additional labor. We would never recommend the planting of any land with fruit trees, which cannot be afterwards subjected to the best cultivation. We have never seen a good peach orchard of any age seeded down to grass; that is, we have never seen it continue to grow and bear good fruit as every thrifty young orchard does, and as every old orchard *should* do. Those who are satisfied with small, second-rate fruit, and little of it on stunted trees, may seed their peach orchards down to grass. The finest, on a large scale, that we ever saw, was kept constantly mellow by repeated harrowings, (and one plowing in spring,) no other crop, neither weeds, grass, roots, nor grain, ever occupying the ground.

When *apple* orchards become large, they may for a short season only, be converted to pasture. Horses may run in before the apples become large enough for them to eat. Cows will injure the trees, and probably become choked with the fruit, and should always be kept out. Swine, sheep, and poultry are best. The swine will be likely to bark some of the trees, and the sheep will certainly do it in winter, unless the trees are protected. The best protection is to drive three or more stakes about the tree, and then tie on a quantity of the trimmings of the Osage Orange hedge, the sharp thorns of which no sheep or pig will desire to encounter. In the absence of the Osage hedge trimmings, the sweet-brier will do. The piles of stone proposed will harbor mice; and be difficult to remove as soon as the orchard is cultivated, which should be frequently.

Guano will probably operate as hen manure in excluding the borer, but we cannot say what is the largest quantity that would be safe.

## Experiments with Underdraining.

We wish to give additional evidence to the value of underdraining, by reporting all accurately stated experiments. Having recently made some on a small scale, we add them to the list. The land is a strong loam in Cayuga county, a medium between a heavy clay and a light loam. The drains were cut two feet nine inches to three feet deep, two rods apart, and completed with tubular tile two inches in diameter. The work being done where the proprietor could not oversee it, cost 40 cents a rod, or \$32 per acre.

The crops on this drained land, the present season, were corn and spring wheat—and being cultivated by a tenant, did not of course receive the best treatment. A portion of the cornfield was on a strip of undrained land. The season proving unusually favorable for the latter, but little difference could be perceived till the ears had set. It is now found, however, that while the corn on the drained land is at least forty bushels of sound shelled corn per acre, the undrained portion yields scarcely thirty bushels, and of poorer quality.

With the spring wheat (China Tea) however, the disparity is greater. Before draining, fifteen bushels per acre was regarded a good crop, and uncertain at that. Three scant acres were sown last spring on the tile-drained land, and yielded eighty-one bushels—equal to twenty-seven bushels per acre. The wheat sold promptly for a dollar per bushel—and would probably have brought more as seed, as it was unusually fine, weighing 62 lbs. to the measured bushel.

The time required to repay the cost of draining would therefore be as follows:—For the corn, the increase being ten bushels per acre, at 75 cents per bushel, four years would be required, if all the seasons were like this. But they are commonly more unfavorable—making a greater difference in favor of the drains; the best cultivation would doubtless place the time for full repayment within three years. The increase of the spring wheat being twelve bushels per acre, at a dollar per bushel, repays the cost in less than three years.

## Clover—its Management and Value.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Having for some months during the middle of summer been prevented by ill health from taking my usual interest in agricultural matters, your paper, the Country Gentleman, during that time was thrown aside; but on my now glancing over the paper, I find in your editorial of the 15th July, you observe that in riding over Mr. Hall's farm in company with the Rev. W. F. Brand, among much good farming and superior cultivation you met with one thing which you could not account for. "In a field of clover which had been mowed during last season, a part remained uncut, and where the tops were thus left on the ground over winter the clover this spring was killed out completely, scarcely a root remaining."

I believe from my experience in clover growing that I can give you the true reason, as I have occasionally experienced the same thing. I may here remark that that the clover plant grows from a tap root which strikes pretty deep into the earth, but more particularly when the top is cut off. And I have found that immediately on the top of the clover plant being cut or mowed off, it brings about a re-action which causes

the roots of the plant to strike down to a greater depth in the soil; and if the soil is good and porous, the oftener the top is cut off the deeper will the root penetrate. Hence it is pretty evident under such circumstances as you name, that had the whole field been mowed, the roots of the clover would then have penetrated deep enough in the earth to have withstood the winter's frosts. In soils adapted to clover growing, it is a valuable plant, much more so I believe than is generally understood, and I am convinced that a crop of clover does less injury to the land than most other plants, providing the soil is kept free from root weeds; and I believe in some instances that instead of deteriorating, that it actually enriches the soil in which it is grown.

Where clover can be mown more than once in a season, each time that it is cut the roots penetrate to a greater depth in the soil and subsoil in search of food; it is therefore evident that this plant does not receive all its support from the active surface soil, but a portion of it from a greater depth in the subsoil than most ordinary farm crops. Besides this, I have been led to believe from experience and observation, that the roots of clover not only obtain a portion of their food from a greater depth in the earth than is penetrated by the plow, but that those roots in thus penetrating the subsoil in search of food, actually bring up something which in their decay strengthens and enriches the soil for future crops. I will here mention a case in point. Several years ago whilst in England, an acquaintance of mine, the late Charles Colling, Esq., one of the pioneer breeders of the far-famed Durham Short-Horned cattle, had a field of oats which were altogether a very fine crop, but yet on some portions of this field was a much fuller and heavier crop than other portions; and on being asked the reason by a party of gentlemen who were visiting his farm, he replied that "last year the whole of this field was in clover, a great portion of which was mowed off for the purpose of stall-feeding my work-horses as required—my farm horses being kept in and stall-fed through the summer. That portion of the field on which the oats are lightest, is where the clover was mown only once; that part which is something heavier, is where the clover crop was cut twice; and that part of the field which now bears the greatest and most luxuriant crop of oats, is where the clover crop was mowed off three times during last summer. The after-math of the whole field was in the autumn eaten off by young horses and sheep."

In conclusion, I would remark that I consider clover a very valuable farm crop, but in its culture it requires judicious management; for I believe if we attempt to grow clover too frequently on the same land, we run the risk of rendering that land incapable of yielding a full crop of clover, or in other words, the land will be rendered clover sick. But by a judicious rotation or course of cropping, along with fair cultivation, there is little danger of failure. T. THOMAS, C. E. Milwaukee.

SALE OF SHEEP.—Mr. GEORGE CAMPBELL of Westminster, Vt., informs us that he has just sold 15 of his Spanish and French Merinoes to a Texas gentleman, and 12 French and 13 Spanish rams, to go to South America.

THE NEW-YORK TEACHER.—A new vol. of this valuable educational journal commences with the October No. It is published in this city, by JAMES CRUIKSHANK, Resident Editor, at \$1 a year.

## Osage Hedges.

In a recent ride through a very fine and fertile portion of the country, we saw many attempted Osage Orange hedges. Some had been recently planted, and others had evidently had an existence of some years. Not one of them was of any value whatever, as a hedge. The cause of this failure was most obvious. None received the slightest culture of any value. Some indeed, had had the soil spaded once, in a strip about six inches wide on each side; the rest none at all. In many cases, more than half the original plants had died out, leaving gaps of various degrees of width; and in one instance an attempt was made to patch up the gaps by a sort of plashing. A farmer might as well undertake to remedy the "skips" in his cornfield, by plashing together the tassels, instead of beginning at the bottom, making an even and sure planting, and then giving a broad surface of ground, clean, mellow, constant cultivation. In order to produce the best effect, the strip of cultivated land on each side of the hedge, should not be less than five feet wide, as we have stated on former occasions—making the whole strip ten feet wide. Three feet each side might possibly do the first year, four would be better.

Cultivation however, is but a part of the process of hedge-making—cutting back freely and heavily, after the first two years, to thicken the bottom, and so rising successively at each semi-annual shearing, is all-essential. Those who will not cultivate their hedges, nor take any care of them, do not deserve success—they certainly will not get it.

Some one may exclaim, "Oh, this is too much care and labor!" To such we are not writing—those who prefer idleness to industry, indolence to thought, weeds to clean culture, stunted crops to heavy products, and sham fences torn down by cattle and hogs, to neat, finished, and complete barriers, will naturally seek the condition of the savage. The western Indian, when asked what work he liked best, answered, "Me like to sit under shade of tree and see white man work?" Doubtless he would prefer the more simple and easy mode of never cultivating either crops or hedges.

Labor is one of the blessings of life, and happiness consists in overcoming difficulties; and when a good hedge is superadded to these, one would think the inducement sufficient to take hold and manage the business in a proper manner. The cost of the plants for thirty rods, is five dollars; handsomely preparing the strip of land one dollar more; planting, one fifty; in all seven dollars and fifty cents, or twenty-five cents a rod. The subsequent cultivation, by means of a horse, *ten times in a season*, or once a fortnight for five months, would not be more than at the rate of a dollar a year—that is, the whole task of cultivating, for the four first years, or until the hedge becomes a perfect barrier, would be but little more than half the setting out, or 13 cents a rod. The whole cost of the completed hedge, would be only about fifty cents a rod; yet because of the "trouble" of cultivating it, many plant out at a cost of twenty-five cents a rod, and after it has perished from neglect, make another fence of rails, boards, or pickets, costing variously from fifty cents to two dollars a rod more. Such is the wisdom of indolence!

The first conclusion is, "The Osage Orange is good for nothing for hedges!" and the remark is as true as can be, as applicable to the management it usually receives.

## A Cheap Ice-House

In a late number of the Country Gentleman, inquiry is made as to the construction of an ice-house. I have never seen one like my own, and give you a description of it. Although standing on a steep hill-side, facing the south, and entirely unprotected by any shade, our ice keeps until we wish to clean it out to fill the house next year. The east and south sides are entirely above ground; the other sides mostly below ground. In digging the place for it to stand, we made a sufficient slope to the east to drain the water off. The sills and joists, ten inches deep, were laid on this bed, east and west, and the spaces filled with saw-dust. The floor laid flush to the outside of the sills; then two-inch plank 18 inches wide, placed on end upon this floor, the edge of the plank flush with the outside of the sills, so as to take the place of studs, two feet apart; the outside and inside edges of these plank are boarded up tightly, and the spaces filled with sawdust to the top; then two strips of 2 by 4 inch plank nailed one on the inside and the other on the outside of the top ends of these plank, to support the rafters for a double roof; the rafters from the inside tightly boarded over, and sawdust covered to the top of the outside rafters, and then the roof put on. A small box or five six inches square is inserted in the ridge of the roof for the escape of heated air. The ice I cover with sawdust about a foot deep, and when the ice melts away from the outside so as to leave a space of five or six inches between the ice and the building, fill that with sawdust. I have no doubt that a house twelve feet square on the inside, and twelve feet deep, filled with good ice and treated in the above manner, will keep two years. Sawdust is an excellent non-conductor.

Wm. P. MELLEN. Lawrence Co., Ky.

## Profits of Bees.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I will give you the profits of my bees this year. From my 18 stands of bees I sold about, as near as I can now calculate, \$14.00 worth of honey in July; and in August I took from caps of these bees 150 lbs. of the first quality of honey, which I sold at 25 cents per lb., and to-morrow I will start with 207 lbs. more of the same kind, and taken from the same 18 stands of bees, which will make 357 lbs. of first quality honey, (besides the \$14 worth,) made 16 stands of bees since harvest, two being very small swarms which had none to spare this fall, but are good now to keep over. The best stand filled since harvest six caps full, which weighed in clear honey, 86 pounds, and are now busy to fill the seventh cap, which is nearly half full at this date. All the main hives are yet full enough to winter over.

Last spring I took off all the spare honey from these stands, and rather too close for so rainy a season as we had till June, so that some of my hives were lighter in June than in spring after I had taken the spare honey. I got but two swarms about the middle of August this season, but they are good enough to winter over with the right care, and one swarm came to me in the yard, which I saw come, and stopped it. It is good for a small swarm—and one I found in a tree in the woods, whereof I saved the bees but not the queen; but I gave them the comb with young and eggs that was not broken by the falling of the tree, and they soon had a queen, and are doing well. As for millers and worms, I have no fears, and never expect to have while I can tend my bees. I give no kind of feed to my bees in summer. GEORGE GEBHART. Union City, Ind., Sept. 27.

## Draining—Steuben County.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I was in Yates and Steuben counties last week and part of the week before, and must tell you about draining, &c. I found a farmer some 12 miles west of this, who has thoroughly drained this season some 40 acres, putting his tiles all three feet deep. He began by deepening and widening a brook that runs through his farm. This he straightened, made it fifteen feet wide at the top and five feet deeper than it was before, which gave him a good outlet for his tile drains. He had fifty men at work for him, and did up the work in a short time. He had been draining on a small scale for a number of years, but got tired of working wet land for nothing, and concluded to go at it in earnest and get something to till that would pay. Now this man is no fancy farmer; he is a working farmer; when you take him by the hand, it is as hard as the bark of a hickory tree; yet he enjoys it, and has means enough to make any improvement as soon as he is sure it will pay.

I saw another field where thirteen men were at work digging ditches and laying tile. I went into the field to see how they were doing—I found them making what I think very thorough work, but wasting money in putting larger tile than necessary in the lateral drains. This is a *prevailing error*. *Everywhere I went*, I found more or less draining going forward. Almost every one who goes to market with grain or cord-wood takes home tile, especially west of Geneva, and a great many east of it.

I found the corn a good crop where I have been, and farmers busy gathering it. Buckwheat is not a good crop in many places. Oats and barley have been a light crop. Mediterranean wheat good every where—white wheat very poor; much of it mown and put up for fodder without threshing.

Sheep are in much better condition than last year. I have got some 500 for winter fattening; most of them were fattened last winter—at least, fed grain in order to sell them for mutton as soon as shorn; but the markets failing, were held on. I have bought no cattle. They are held too high in the country, according to eastern markets.

Steuben county, in my opinion, has never attracted that notice as an agricultural county that it deserves. There is a great quantity of excellent land there, for raising all kinds of grain, and excellent for grass. True a large portion of it is hilly and tedious to plow, but wherever naturally dry, or artificially made so, it bears fine crops of every kind, even on the tops of the hills. Where the farmers are progressive, there are corn and wheat crops that surpass more celebrated locations. An immense quantity of the land requires draining, and would pay abundantly for it. There is a tract of land from Penn-Yan, in Yates county, to Wayne, in Steuben county, that is, I think, part of it nearly worthless in its present state, that would be the best of land if drained, and you can find plenty of land all over the county of the same kind. Many of the farmers are doing a little at draining with stone, but then they generally only put in a ditch here and there, which is of little use in drying the soil. What they want, is tile works somewhere in Wayne and in Tyrone—also somewhere in the neighborhood of Bradford, and in many other places, as wherever tiles are made the land will be drained. Then

they want a few more enterprising men among them to lead the way, and then I have no doubt Steuben county would be second to but few counties in the State. I have for years bought stock for feeding purposes there, and am more and more convinced that what I write is correct. Wherever you meet with reading farmers, you find their crops, and all around them, looking well. I mean those who take agricultural papers. In the towns of Prattsburgh and Wheeler in this same county, some enterprising farmers have made great improvement, but a great many more are needed. The great complaint with them is the want of capital to drain with, but if they would only do enough, they would immediately have faith that it would pay all the expense of draining in about three years, by the excess in crops. They would then soon find the means to drain it. Yours truly, JOHN JOHNSTON. Near Geneva, N. Y. Oct. 25.

## Shallow Culture.

MESSRS. EDITORS—The uniformity of testimony of farmers at their discussion at Syracuse, in favor of shallow plowing for the culture of Indian corn, strikes me as extraordinary. Col. Brewer and others speak of raising their best crops when they plowed not more than *four inches* deep. Can this be true of the culture in your State generally? I had supposed it well to plow from *six to nine inches* deep, according to the condition of the soil; but never less than six inches. It may be that the character of the soil in New-York varies from that in Massachusetts, but not in a manner to warrant a more shallow culture. If it does, I should like to see a reason therefor. P. Mass.

Where a few inches only of the top soil has been made fertile by the growth of turf and by manuring, the present crop of corn will be heavier by shallow culture than if a more unfavorable subsoil is turned up and planted upon. But such crops, although fine, are not the largest of all. The heaviest product of corn is obtained from both deep and rich soils.

Soils vary greatly in different parts of this State, requiring various modes of management. But although corn may not need so deep culture as some other crops, yet the most perfect farms in nearly every region are those which have been gradually deepened in cultivation, applying a corresponding quantity of manure as the deepening process advances.

## Treatment of Ringbone.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Will you or any of your numerous subscribers, tell me the best and safest way to cure a ringbone, and not leave a scar or blemish on the foot. SUBSCRIBER. Franklin.

We have never known a case of confirmed or decided ringbone cured by any process. A scar should never be made in treating it. Cutting and burning should never be allowed—they are both cruel and useless.

The best medicine for man or beast, to *preserve* health, is *exercise*; the best to *restore* it, is *REST*. This latter is the king of medicines, and we could enumerate some of its surprising cures. For incipient ringbone, this is emphatically the remedy. Dr. Dadd recommends in addition, an application of acetate of cantharides, as being milder and better than common blistering. When the part becomes hot, apply cold-water bandages.

**Farmers' Clubs.**

Another season with its results and its varied experiences is now before the cultivators of the Farm and Garden, and many a fact of practical value has been learned by them during that period. Different individuals, however, seem to turn over different leaves in the great library of Nature, each reading a special lesson of her operations; hence, by the communication and comparison of their experiences, much valuable knowledge may be added to the general as well as individual stock of information. To communicate and compare facts and ideas is the great object of Farmers' Clubs, the formation of which we have from time to time attempted to encourage, we fear, however, but with partial success.

The present is just the time to organize these social meetings, and there need be nothing complex about the matter. Let the people of any rural neighborhood interested in the cultivation of the soil, meet at any convenient place, and choose a chairman and secretary from their number—and they are supplied with officers for a start. Next, let them select a subject for discussion, and all so disposed give briefly their experience—or any facts pertinent to the question before them—the Club is at work. They will soon learn what simple rules are necessary to the furtherance of the objects in view, and can agree upon them as they are needed. Subjects should be selected for the next evening, and it may be well to request one or more brief essays from persons competent to their preparation. No difficulty will be found in the selection of themes both interesting and profitable, in the culture of different crops, the rearing and management of animals, the production and disposal of fruit, &c., for there are numberless questions brought before every farmer in which he is interested pecuniarily and should be mentally, and which may be made profitable subjects of discussion. Here individual experience will be made common property, each imparting to the other whatever he has learned not generally known, or which may tend to confirm or refute received opinions.

The sphere of the Club may sometimes be profitably extended by connecting a circulating library therewith, each member paying an initiation fee to be applied to the purchase of agricultural books and periodicals of the higher class, for the use of the Club; and in this way, at a small expense to each, a large amount of reading could be secured to the whole. The many valuable papers now published in different sections, could thus be brought before a large circle of readers, and exert a still more powerful influence for progress in farming. Many important books would thus be brought within the reach of those who could not otherwise enjoy the privilege—arousing to new researches, and deepening the thirst for scientific knowledge.

An important end of the Farmers' Club is the cultivation of the social faculties by this union of those interested in agriculture for their mutual advancement. There is no class or profession which makes less use of the principle of association than the farming population, and none to which it can be of greater benefit. The knowledge of the best methods of cultivation and management upon the farm, is derived mainly from experience, and new facts are continually coming before the observant agriculturist in every branch of his

business. These facts are often of as great value to his neighbor as himself, and the neighbor on the other hand, may have something as important to return. This interchange of facts and opinions is what gives the agricultural journal its value—in a narrower range, and bringing them home more closely and effectively, perhaps, the Club tends to the same end. It tends also to unite and encourage the farming interest—a mental profit arising from such interchange of information and courtesy.

**Raising New Pears.**

**MESSRS. EDITORS**—I have now on hand a few choice winter pears, from which I am intending to save seeds for the purpose of raising new varieties. How ought I to manage these pears so as to ripen the seeds as perfectly as possible? (1)

How ought a seed bed to be prepared, in order to get as large a growth upon the seedlings as possible? Will any of them probably grow large enough to make a scion in the spring of 1860? (2)

Do you suppose it would be possible to fertilize the blossom of the quince with pollen from apple or pear blossoms, or to fertilize apple or pear blossoms with quince pollen? (3)

Can you tell me why it is that the Lewis pear is not more cultivated—from what the fruit-books say of it, I should suppose it would be one of the best market varieties, yet we rarely hear of it or see the fruit. (4) **YOUNG AMATEUR Worcester.**

(1.) When the pears are mature, the seeds will be perfected. (2) Land which is naturally fertile, or which has been enriched by manure in previous years, will answer—if deeply dug or trenched, preserving its fertility near the top, it will be best. The seedlings will probably form a main shoot next year, which may be used as a graft in a large tree, or budding on a quince stock to induce earlier bearing. (3) The proposed cross-fertilization will not take place. (4) Although a good pear, its small size prevents it from being popular in market—the former hardly compensating for the latter.

**Treatment of Frosted Feet.**

To cure the intolerable itching that follows frost-bitten toes, it is necessary to totally exclude the air from the affected part. If it is not accompanied with swelling, gum shellac, dissolved in alcohol, applied so as to form a complete coat, is the easiest remedy that I know of. It dries soon, and does not adhere to the stockings, and generally lasts until they are well. If the flesh becomes swollen and painful, plasters of good sticking salve are of great service, but if highly inflamed any mild poultice that will exclude the oxygen of the air from the diseased part, and keep it moist, allowing the recuperative powers of nature to do the rest.

**BURNS AND SCALDS** may be treated successfully in the same manner. I. H.

**Pickling Pork**

Boil the brine—skim off all the impurities, and pour it on hot. The salt strikes into the meat while hot in a short time, as the pores are enlarged by heat. It has been tried by many different persons, and if the meat was in good order I have never heard of its spoiling. I. H. *Long Island.*

The receipts of the Michigan State Agricultural Fair, were \$4,354 80. This is \$1,300 more than last year.

## Raising Small Fruits.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Can I next summer with any degree of certainty raise strawberries? and if so, what course is best to pursue, with regard to fertilizing, setting, &c., and what kind is most certain and most profitable? Will you make replies to similar questions concerning raspberries and blackberries? and let me know whether there are any other light crops more profitable, that will yield a quick return. I want to realize quick profit for a year or two. L. F. D. Miami Co., Ohio.

Strawberries, rightly managed, are one of the most certain of all crops. It is first in importance to have a productive sort. Wilson's Albany undoubtedly stands at the head of all in this particular, at the same time it is very hardy, the berries are large, and the flavor is good, although not equal to some. The Hooker is nearly as productive, better in flavor, as large, but more tender. Both are staminate, and need no fertilizers, and are undoubtedly the two most valuable sorts. The soil should be rich and firm—old yard manure is best, or old compost made from it by mixing with turf. Spring is the best time for setting out. A small crop will be produced the first summer; a profuse one the second, if the soil is clean and well cultivated.

Raspberries and blackberries are not so uniformly productive in all localities, and require more care in pruning and training. Brinckle's Orange is doubtless the finest flavored and most productive raspberry, but too soft for distant conveyance to market. Red Antwerp and Franconia are firmer and bear carriage better. The New Rochelle is the most showy blackberry for market, but the Dorchester has a better flavor.

Our correspondent must not expect great profits at once from these fruits, although they bear abundantly in two or three years, when properly managed, and on suitable soil. Variations in external causes affect their success, and these variations are only learned in each particular locality by experience. It will probably require two or three years to ascertain the most profitable way of marketing. It may be laid down as almost a universal rule, that no business bringing large profits, can be immediately learned; if it was not so, the large profits would immediately disappear by every one engaging in it.

## Thrashing and Cleaning Clover Seed—Fallows.

MESSRS. EDITORS—You recommend, before putting clover seed through the huller, to pass it through an ordinary thrashing machine to separate the heads from the stalks. A neighbor of ours has fourteen loads, and wishes to know how it is done (1.)

Here they never thrash it with a machine, but by hand, or else tread it out with horses. I have looked through back Cultivators, but could only find a way of fixing a thrashing machine so as to hull it by passing it through two or three times. Will it pay to use an eight-horse thrashing machine for fourteen loads? (2.) Will the heads and stalks come out at the same place? How long should it take to run a given quantity through? How many hands will it require, and how should they be placed? Will a thrashing machine prepare the seed sufficiently for all hullers, or will it leave the seed too bulky for hauling to the huller machine, which is 12 or 14 miles distant? (3.)

What alteration must be made in the machine? The ones in use here are separators. If you would give all the information necessary to one who never saw it done, you would much oblige us.

I should also like to know how flax grown for the seed would answer for a fallow crop to precede wheat. The land is hilly and dry; soil a clay loam; has been in clover pasture two years. I wish to break it up next spring in preparation for fall wheat (4.) Which would you advise, flax or a summer fallow? I shall have too much corn to attend to, mind any more hoed crops. J. SULIOT.

1. The clover straw with its seed is passed through the thrashing machine and thrown out on a horizontal or shaking separator, like those commonly attached to the smaller machines, which retains the straw and coarse light matter, and allows the part containing the seed to drop through. In this way the 14 loads will be probably reduced to three or four loads. Beating with a flail or treading by horses is a very tedious as well as imperfect process.

(2.) If the thrashing machine is easily procured, it will undoubtedly pay, but the work is best performed by farmers who have their own machines, to be used at their command. The 14 loads might be run through in a day or day and a half. The hands will be a driver, a pitcher, a feeder, and one to clear away—four in all.

(3.) It will be ready for the huller after passing through the thrasher, and may be carried in a large box, like the boxes used for drawing charcoal, or a hay-rack may have boards placed at the sides. The amount of seed obtained greatly varies, but is usually one to three bushels per acre.

(4.) Much depends on the nature of the soil—very strong tenacious soils, with manure, would give flax seed and wheat—but as flax seed is very exhausting on lighter soils, the result would probably be failure. We would recommend a summer fallow for the purpose only for eradicating weeds—but we have found the dense shade of corn sown thickly for fodder quite equal to a fallow to smother down and destroy weeds. Chinese sugar cane sown for fodder is still more destructive to weeds, except that it grows slowly at first, and the weeds must not be allowed to "get the start" of it.

## Experiment in Potato Culture.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Having read in your valuable paper the plan of Mr. HOWATT of preparing potatoes for seed, I determined to try the experiment here in Iowa. Accordingly about one month before planting time I cut my potatoes, leaving one eye to each piece, and separating the end with the cluster of eyes from the rest of the potato, and drying them with air-slacked lime. One eye and the stem end I threw to the pigs, planting only the middle and other end.

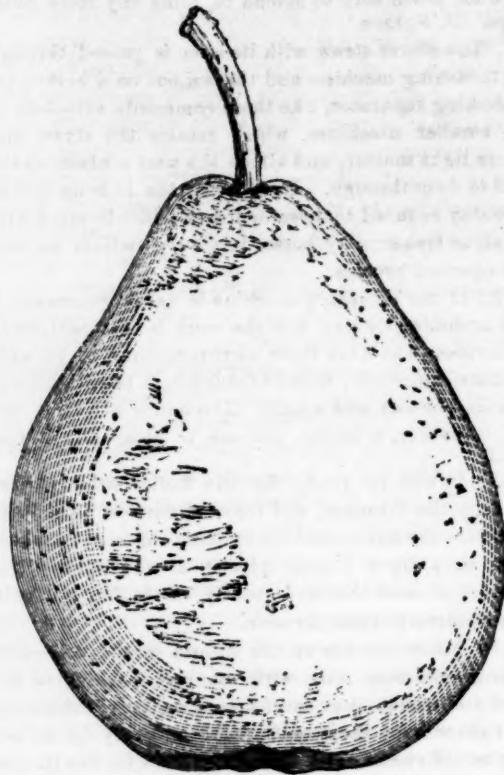
Lot 1—I planted with cuttings from middle of potato. They ripened and were ready for market by 1st Sept. Potatoes medium size. Quality first rate. Infected by rot, half a bushel in 100 bushels.

Lot 2—Planted with cuttings from cluster of eyes. They were ripened by the frost on the 8th Oct. In size a little better than lot 1. Quality not so good. Quantity about the same. Rot about one bushel in eight.

Lot 3—Planted with potatoes cut and planted promiscuously without liming, and on the same day with the others—was remarkable for the unevenness of ripening. Some ripe by 1st Sept., and others not until frost. Quality not so good as lot 1. Size better. Badly infected with the rot—nearly one-half. One thing I noticed was, that all I examined were first decayed on the end with cluster of eyes. The variety I planted was the White Pink-Eye. C. E. K. Iowa.

**Two Fine Summer Pears.**

**THE PULSIFER** — Specimens of this new variety, from which the accompanying accurate portrait is taken, were furnished us by ELLWANGER & BARRY of Rochester. This variety was originally raised by Dr.



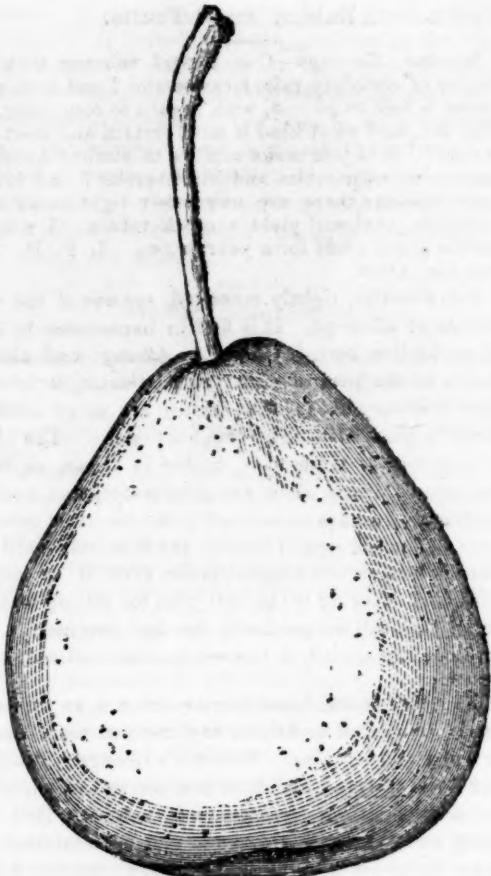
PULSIFER PEAR.

John Pulsifer, of Hennepin, Ill. The tree is an upright and vigorous grower. In size it is nearly medium; form obovate-pyriform; stalk short and curved, scarcely sunk at the insertion; calyx closed, sometimes open, in a shallow basin; skin yellow, sometimes slightly russeted; flesh melting, juicy; if well ripened "very good," if not "nearly best." Ripens latter part of summer.

**OTT PEAR.**—This has been known for some years, but its adaptation to this state has not been fully ascertained until recently. It is a seedling of the Seckel, and originated with Samuel Ott, of Montgomery Co., Pa., and was brought to notice by Dr. Brinckle of Philadelphia. The tree is moderately vigorous, but the pear for its great excellence, is likely to prove a general favorite with those who esteem delicious quality first on the list of desirable points.

It is rather small, obovate, sometimes roundish and turbinated; greenish-yellow, often netted with russet, with a reddish cheek; stalk long and curved, slightly sunk; flesh melting, perfumed, excellent, "best." It ripens during the latter part of summer.

**FAST TROTTING.**—At a recent trotting match at the South End Riding Park, Boston—mile heats, best three in five—there were three competitors—Ethan Allen, owned by O. S. Roe & Co., of Shoreham, Vt., Columbus, Jr., owned by Smith Brothers, of Orwell, Vt., and Hiram Drew, owned by Chas. Warren & Co., Brookline, Mass. Ethan was the winner in three straight heats—time, 2 37—2 35—2 33. The second was Columbus, Jr., whose time was declared as 2 38—2 35 1-2—2 34 1 2. The third was Hiram Drew, whose time was 2 39—2 37—2 35.



OTT PEAR.

**Peach Tree Diseases.**

**MESSRS. EDITORS**—I have read your remarks on peach growing in Delaware with much interest.

From your remarks I should infer that the disease is wide-spread. Does it prevail throughout the peach regions of New-Jersey and Maryland? Is it anything like the yellows, and how far north has it been observed? Do you regard the yellows as a contagious disease, and would it be safe to obtain trees that are apparently healthy from a place where the yellows are troublesome?

Is there any danger of injuring peach trees by pouring boiling water upon their roots for the purpose of destroying the borer? If this is a safe way, it certainly is a very easy one, as an annual application of it in Sept. would destroy all the young borers before they could do much mischief. W. Fitchburg, Mass.

The disease in Delaware may be the yellows, yet as we do not know all the symptoms as developed there, we cannot speak positively. The yellows at the north is first indicated by a blotched and *prematurely ripened fruit*—then by small wiry shoots and a sickly growth—then death. The yellows is quite contagious—we should not procure trees or stones from a region where it prevails.

A small quantity of boiling water will not injure a peach tree, for only the outside bark is heated. Long continued heat would penetrate the wood and injure the tree. We prefer to cut out the peach grub (not properly the "borer") with the point of a knife, as it is quickly done, only entering the bark.



Spanish Merino Rams,  
Bred by and the property of GEORGE CAMPBELL of West Westminster, Vt.

#### Two Mistakes in Cattle Feeding.

There are two mistakes not unfrequently committed about this season of the year, which it may be well to notice, as they may be thereby prevented in a number of instances.

One of the mistakes to which we refer, consists in allowing cows and other kinds of stock to depend entirely upon grass, even after it has been deprived of much of its relish and its nutritive qualities by repeated freezings. That this practice must be injurious reason or common sense might suffice to teach without any any lessons from experience whatever; but if the latter are needed to enforce the former, they can be had daily by inspection of the diminished quantity and depreciated quality of the milk and butter, and also by looking at the falling off in the condition of sheep, cattle, or other stock. Cows that get a setback from this cause and at this season, are not likely to get over it all winter. The injury to the grass itself from too close gnawing, &c., we may merely name without any details.

The other mistake to which we refer, consists in making a too sudden change from green to dry feed. Any sudden change of this kind must produce more or less derangement in the system and condition of those subjected to it. The change from dry to green food in spring is probably more frequently a source of serious or violent disease; but, nevertheless, the change from green to dry should be made quite gradually. Pumpkins supply one material whereby this change can be made gradual; and if there were no other advantage to be derived from root crops, it would be well to raise a quantity every year to serve the purpose of making the change from green to dry feed a gradual one. Even after this change is made a few roots occasionally through the winter seem absolutely a necessity, both for the comfort and health of animals fed on dry hay, and almost as indispensable for ewes and cows that begin to give milk before any green thing can be had in the spring.

The avoidance of these mistakes or mal-practices will not only contribute to the comfort and health of the animals upon a farm, but will also yield a not un-

enviable satisfaction to the feelings of their owner, as well as save him from losses in several ways, which we need not now particularize.

#### Burning Sods for their Ashes.

At a meeting of the Skaneateles Farmer's Club, Mr. W. P. Giles gave the result of an experiment on his farm, some years ago, in burning the turf upon a piece of swampy ground which had been reclaimed by draining. The sod was cut loose in the fall, and in the spring was thrown into heaps, and burned by the aid of old rails and stumps, and the ashes was then spread as a top-dressing upon the land immediately after plowing; the result was an enormous crop of corn, while the adjacent parts of the same field were ruined by the worms. The ground continued to produce larger crops of grain and grass than other parts of the field to this day. He also alluded to the practice of the Hon. Mr. Dickinson of Steuben Co., of cutting up the sod along the side of the highway, and throwing it in heaps and burning it, as a manure, with beneficial results.

#### To Kill Lice on Cattle.

Take tobacco and boil it in water until very strong—then wash the animal freely with the liquid two or three times. I have a cow that was so for six months, and tried every thing I could hear of to no purpose, when I washed her back and flanks freely. This drove all the able ones to her neck and head. I then washed her neck once, which finished all the rest, thus making that detestable weed answer one important and beneficial purpose. A. M. BROWN. Glebe Cottage, Va.

#### Linseed Tea for Calves.

An English paper gives the following simple mode of preparing linseed tea for calves:

"One and a half lb. of linseed will make five gallons of tea. To one and a-half lb of ground linseed add a gallon of *hot* water—not boiling. In cold weather let it stand twenty-four hours, in warm weather twelve hours. Then add four gallons of water, and give it to the calves at the temperature and about the consistency of new milk. A six months' calf will drink six gallons per day, given at twice."

**The Growing of Corn in Eastern Vermont.**

**MESSRS. EDITORS**—I have just finished the Indian Corn harvest, which is with us here upon our interval farms, quite an item of farm expense, though it is the most remunerating of all the grain crops, and particularly so in a favorable season like the one just past. I think however, that many of our farmers are mistaken in their estimates of expense in growing this crop, as well as in the estimates of the quantity they grow upon the acre. The over-estimate in the latter, will of course diminish that of the former, as the bushel in both cases is made the basis of calculation.

The half-bushel measure, or 56 lbs. weight, after the corn is sufficiently dried to shell easily, is the only true test of quantity, and Gunter's chain to ascertain the surface upon which it grew. Neither of these is generally resorted to, but estimates are relied upon, and are very apt to be deceptive. I have always doubted whether much, if any, over 100 bushels can be grown upon an acre under the best preparation, the most thorough cultivation, and the most propitious season for the growth and maturity of the crop. We frequently see notices in our agricultural journals of 140 and 150, and along down to 100 bushels to the acre, in various localities, which I conjecture are in most cases merely estimates, and perhaps very loosely and imperfectly made. I am speaking of our Northern States only; I do not pretend to know what may be done in California, or upon the western or southern prairies.

I have frequently heard farmers say, and have seen the same in print, that corn can be raised at 17 to 25 cents per bushel; but when this declaration has been made orally, on sounding their calculations they were all loose estimates, and would oftener reach 50 or 60 cents per bushel than less, by a close figuring of all the items of expense, even without any charge to manure account so far as the manure came from the farm, except the labor of hauling, spreading, &c.

I do not pretend, **Messrs. Editors**, to perfect accuracy in the cost of production or measurement of this or any other farm crop, but paying for all my labor by the month and by the day, and by keeping an account of the labor done upon each crop, with \$2 per week for board and washing for the men, adding a reasonable charge for use of farm tools and for team and its keeping, I am enabled to approximate to what I think is near the correct cost of production per bushel of any of the grains I grow, after harvesting and ascertaining the number of bushels. The same can be done with the hay crop; but the expense and the profit of this crop, as we all know, very much depends on the weight of the production and the weather for curing.

**How to Increase your Manure.**

I am a believer in making all the manure on the farm that is convenient, or even possible, unless the cost will exceed the value after it is made—using not only all the forage grown on the farm, but leaves from the woods, turf, and the deposits of the ditches on the sides of the highway, (swamp muck I have none,) soap-suds, the wash from the chambers, the droppings in the poultry-yard, chip manure, &c., (a rich compost heap when thoroughly mixed)—and adding to the barn-yard manure as much of the grain as can be made remunerative by stall-feeding, or by keeping store cattle and sheep in a healthy and growing condition. The grain will not

only increase the quantity of manure, but very much improve its quality. When I speak of making this feeding of grain *remunerative*, I do not desire to be understood, realizing in cash the same per bushel as the market value in the beef and mutton it will make, or the growth it will add to other stock, (though it does under favorable circumstances sometimes do it,) but when the prospect is that two-thirds of the market value of corn or oats can be saved by thus feeding, the increased value of the manure to the soil for future crops will amply pay the other third.

**How to Apply your Manure.**

I am also a believer in incorporating the manure with the soil at the earliest convenience after it is made, which, with me, is in the spring if I can find the time. If all cannot be drawn, I leave the sheds and unexposed parcels until autumn, and then plow it in for the next corn crop. Of course my manure goes into the soil in a long, coarse and green condition; it decomposes in the soil, and the soil gets the benefit of all the fertilizing properties it can retain from this decomposition. The gases and ammonia that must escape inevitably by its laying in the yards exposed to the washing of the summer rains and hot sun, must be retained by the soil or a great portion of them at least. This is my theory, and I think, though perhaps at the risk of appearing egotistic, it has been pretty thoroughly tested by practice. I know, **Messrs. Editors**, I am running counter to the opinion of some of your able correspondents on this manure application question. I make no pretensions to the philosophy of these things. I leave this part of the subject to the discussion of abler pens than mine. I have only my own weak judgment, common sense and experience to guide me, and on these I rely.

I have no doubt of the immediate effect of fine rotten manure upon or near the surface of the soil. It will tell for the first crop more strongly than when in a green state; its action is quicker, and perceptible at an earlier stage; but this does not prove its ulterior strength, or that it is ultimately better for the soil. Plow in green and coarse manure considerably deep, say from 8 to 10 inches on stubble land, with a short mould-board plow—one of the Eagle deep tillers is the best—harrow or cultivate thoroughly until the lumps are broken up and the soil pulverized, and there will be drawn back to the surface and near the surface no inconsiderable portion of the manure, and this process makes one of the best tilths for a corn crop that can be obtained, especially on an alluvial soil. A field treated in this way, with 40 to 50 loads of manure to the acre, after the corn will produce another heavy grain crop; grass seed will be sure to catch; heavy hay crops will follow for four years, and moderate ones for two years more. Then turn over the sod, and it will yield 50 bushels oats to the acre, though it has had no manure for seven or eight years. It is then ready for another feeding with green manure, and another heavy corn yield. One year ago I turned over the sod upon eight acres, which had a heavy manuring eight years ago, and none since; sowed to oats after harrowing mellow; the yield is 65 bushels per acre. That last great manuring in a green state has helped to make this oat crop. Had this field received half the quantity of fine rotten manure upon the surface, and been harrowed in at the last manuring, it might not

have made any less corn, but the after crops of grass and the first crop after breaking again, (the crop of this year,) in my opinion would have been materially and most essentially lessened.

It is natural and easy to imbibe the opinion that whatever is most convenient and most easily done in our farm operations, is as well if not better than any other way. In many localities, the nature of the soil is such that it would be not only inconvenient but utterly impossible to draw out their manure in the spring time. This is the case on all wet clayey lands, and it is a matter of necessity to leave the manure in the yards until autumn; and when it is applied it must go upon the surface if spread broadcast, or otherwise put into the hill for a corn crop, on account of the coldness of the soil, and thus the owners adopt the opinion of surface manuring with rotten manure. It may be the best for them, but not so on sandy loams or any other dry friable soils.

#### Importance of Deep Plowing.

I am a believer in deep tillage. Not at one plowing to turn up five to seven inches of subsoil that the plow has never reached before, but gradually, three inches at a time, until we get the desired depth, which with me is from ten to twelve inches. There may be localities and soils where this process would be of no advantage; but such soils are few and far between in the section of country where I reside.

#### Use of Commercial Fertilizers.

I am an unbeliever in most of the concentrated imported manures—the guanos, phosphates, superphosphates, &c. They may be beneficial to some crops, but they are not economical in my opinion, unless in market gardening, or upon crops near the places where these manures can be purchased and used without much freight charges. They cost too much, and then the risk of getting an inferior and an adulterated article. Let any farmer who is disposed to purchase largely of these special fertilizers, expend one half the cost in increasing the manure on his farm, by resorting to the means at his command, and he will find a cheaper way to enrich his lands than to expend his money for imported manures.

Gypsum and unleached ashes will pay their cost on my crops, and these are the only special fertilizers I use.

The manure made on the farm is, and ever must be the main reliance to keep up a high fertility of the soil. It is a mine of wealth to the farmer. Without it we cannot long make it a remunerative business. With it, used with judgment and discretion, we can realize any reasonable amount of profits.

#### Expense of the Corn Crop.

Now as to the expense of a corn crop. By as close an account as can be conveniently arrived at for several years past, (without counting anything for the manure made on the farm, except the labor of putting materials into the yards and compost heap, shoveling it over, and hauling and spreading,) we find it to be on the average \$28 per acre. The expense will vary, as some acres receive more labor by way of hauling more manure, being a greater distance to haul it, or applying more gypsum and ashes to some than to others; and the expense of harvesting and shelling is in some measure increased by the proportion of yield; but take

one year with another as the crop grows with me, the cost is as above stated. The more bushels per acre, less the cost per bushel; thus it becomes important to increase the yield to the utmost extent.

The crop of this year, recently harvested, numbers twelve acres, and the yield is 1,860 bushels in the ear. Allowing two of ears to make one shelled, and it gives 77½ bushels to the acre. The corn grew in three separate fields—the one of them more highly manured than either of the others—the largest yield being 180, and the smallest 136 bushels in the ear, to the acre. But by way of estimate I must cut down this measurement to where it will stand the test in the half bushel measure, or the standard weight, or these tests will undeceive me. There were a few bushels of soft corn thrown out after the basket measurement in the field, and the shrink or drying away of the corn before it is merchantable, will tell fractionally against two ears making one of shelled, next March or April. It is reasonable to deduct about 100 bushels in the ear for loss in shrinkage and soft corn. By former measurement of the cribs, as shelled from them in past years, this allowance will leave it rather in favor of the estimated shelled measurement than otherwise. I think it safe to call it 880 bushels when dry enough to shell and be saleable, or a fraction over 73 bushels to the acre, average. Thus it has cost me within a fraction of 38½ cents per bushel to grow this crop, without counting the interest on land at \$100 per acre in value, the taxes, fencing, rent and out-buildings to house the crop, and farm manure. The last item should not be taken into account, as it is the offal of the farm, and rightly belongs to the soil. By adding 10½ cents more per bushel to the expense of raising, and counting the shuck or fodder at what it is worth for winter forage which will pay the interest on land, the whole cost is told; leaving the value of the grain above 49 cents per bushel as net profit. It is now worth here just 80 cents, leaving 31 cents per bush. net—a highly profitable crop. But this year is an exception; the season has been propitious, and prices are favorable and satisfactory. It is considerably above the average of years for corn growing, and the expense has been lessened thereby. I do not think, take one year with another, that corn can be grown on the best of our lands in this section, expenses all told, for less than from 55 to 60 cents per bushel. J. W. COLBURN, Springfield, Vt., Oct., '58.

#### Cure for the Bots.

Draw a cord tightly around the neck, or sufficiently so to raise the vein; then make an incision, taking 3 half pints of blood from the horse, to which add one half-pint of fine salt. Put the same in a bottle, and drench the horse before it cools. The bots loose their hold upon the horse to eat of the blood, while the blood and salt act as a purge to carry off the bots. G. H. M. Willamette, O. T.

#### Cure for Ringbone.

MESSRS. EDITORS—I observe a call for a cure of Ringbone. The following can be relied on:—Equal preparation of oil of spike, British oil, and turpentine, mixed, with an infusion of liquid vitriol sufficient for fomentation—to be applied immediately—and remixed and applied every other morning, for three successive times—after which soft oil of some kind should be used to suspend the cauterizing effect. J. E. W.

### Inquiries and Answers.

**COAL ASHES.**—Will you or any of your correspondents inform me through the Country Gentleman, whether there is any fertilizing qualities in coal ashes or not. Among all the controversies about manure and compost manures, &c., I have never seen this question touched. If, as admitted on all hands, that mineral coal is from vegetable substances, why should not the ashes have some alkaline properties in it as well as from ordinary wood coal? Among all the Geological and Chemical works that I have read, I never have seen anything in reference to it. Large quantities are produced, and so far as I have observed, thrown to waste. I have used a little of it mixed with earth, bones, and other manure, in beds, particularly when I have planted grapevines, but have not had time yet to mark results. S. RYDER. *Alton, Ill.* [Coal ashes contain little potash, except what is derived from the wood used to kindle the fire. Theorists may account for its absence, whether correctly or erroneously we cannot say; we merely state the fact. Coal from different localities is different in composition, but its ashes generally contain small portions of lime, magnesia, and other substances promoting fertility, and the ashes are therefore of some value, although far less so than wood ashes, except as a loosener of clay soil, and as an absorber of liquid manure.]

**CLUB SPRING WHEAT.**—Will you inform me where I can obtain the Club spring wheat, and what it will cost per bushel, by railroad to Olean. C. B. I. [We presume this wheat can be procured at the seed stores in Rochester, and most likely at Bath.]

**HUNGARIAN GRASS SEED.**—“A Constant Reader” inquires as to the value of this seed as compared with oats, for feeding horses. If to be fed unground, as oats usually are, we should prefer oats; the grass, or more properly millet seed, owing to its small size and hardness, would be very likely to pass undigested through the animal.

**DRAINING TOOLS.**—Are there spades and other implements especially adapted to tile draining for sale in your city? What are they and the prices? Tiles are manufactured at Fort Wayne, sixty miles from here by canal and railroad, and a number here are intending to use them next season A. A. C. [The set of draining tools spoken of in English works, are not for sale here, nor are they necessary. A spade for common earth, a shovel for loose earth, a pick for hard subsoil, a narrow spade for the deeper portions of the drain, a long-handled pick for the operator to work the narrow bottom while standing above, and a narrow scoop hoe for cleaning out the narrow bottom, are all that are commonly required.]

**A LAME HORSE.**—A friend of mine is the owner of a valuable mare about twelve years old, which from some unknown cause, has become lame in the left shoulder. When first put upon the road she goes very well, but after trotting a mile or so begins to limp. Can you tell me what ought to be done for her? OLD SUBSCRIBER. [We cannot]

**INGERSOLL'S HAY PRESS.**—Will you be so good as to inform me whether the “Ingersoll Hay Press” is in good repute with you, and whether there are any in successful operation in your neighborhood. G. W. C. [We know of no one in this vicinity who has used In-

gersoll's hay press, the farmers in this neighborhood being satisfied with Dederick's, which is made here.]

**POTATOES AND HONEY.**—Can you or any of your subscribers inform me where I can obtain a bushel or so of Prince Albert Potatoes, nearer to Fairfield, Iowa, than New-Jersey? Can you give a recipe in the Cultivator for making artificial honey? C. N. B. [We do not know that the Prince Albert Potato has as yet been cultivated any where at the west. Perhaps some of our correspondents can furnish a recipe for artificial honey.]

**RINGBONE.**—Noticing an inquiry a short time since in your paper, as to a cure of the ringbone on horses, I reply by referring the inquirer to Mr. G. W. Tippets, Huntersland, Schoharie county. Mr. Tippets has succeeded in curing quite a number of cases. I understand the remedy is quite simple, and does not disable the horse from moderate work while using it. I do not remember as to the time it requires to effect a cure, but understand that the remedy is perfect,—the application of one bottle of the liquid (cost \$1,) being, I think, sufficient. G. W. DURANT. *Rensselaerville.*

**CISTERNS.**—I will state for the benefit of those whom it may concern, that to cover cisterns with timber and have them durable, the timbers should be entirely covered with a coat of cement. I cannot say that the timber would last forever, having never tried the experiment, but see no reason why they should not last a great number of years. G. W. DURANT.

**BEDFORD SWINE.**—In reply to S. K. of Zanesville, O., I would say that many years ago we had the Bedford breed of hogs in this section of Pennsylvania, and I have always considered that it was from that blood that we were enabled to establish our justly celebrated Chester County breed, which is now and has been for many years, more extensively propagated than any other. J. COPE. *West Chester, Pa.*

**DELAWARE GRAPE.**—Will you confer a favor by stating in the December no. of the Cultivator whether the Delaware grape is earlier to ripen than the Isabella, and also the quality—would it be a desirable grape for this latitude. E. S. G. *Easton, Ct.* [The Delaware is one of the earliest of all the American grapes—it ripens some weeks before the Isabella—is scarcely equalled for its excellent flavor—the vine is very hardy—and the only drawback is its small size. It holds the same place among American grapes that the Seckel does among pears. It would undoubtedly succeed finely at the locality of our correspondent.]

**WHITE RYE.**—I notice an inquiry in your paper as to where seed of the “white rye” may be procured; and although the distance of the inquirer from this place is too great for that purpose, yet to encourage all who may be interested in it, I will mention what I know about it.

It was first introduced into this (Medford) township about six years ago, since when the black variety has been generally discarded by those farmers of our country who have been in the practice of growing rye. I suppose nine-tenths of the rye grown hereabouts the past season, was of the white kind. It appears to be considerably more productive, but I do not notice much difference in the size of the grain. It yields a flour that will make bread about as white as that from wheat; if not ground too close, it would be difficult to say which is the whitest; though different soils might

make some difference in it in that respect. The straw is heavier, stronger, whiter and brighter than that from the black kind, and brings readily from one to two dollars per ton more in the Philadelphia market.  
G. H. Medford, N. J.

**WHEAT MIDGE—RINGBONE.**—You would oblige me by giving me at your earliest opportunity, answers to the following queries:—1. What is the *midge*—is it similar to any insect with which we of the south are acquainted? (1.) 2. What is the best and most certain cure of ringbone in a horse? (2.) W. J. POINTS *Brown's Cove, Albemarle Co., Va.* [1. The wheat midge is a very small fly or gnat, with orange-colored body, slender legs, and two transparent wings. It is seen in wheatfields where it exists, about the time the heads appear. During the day they conceal themselves near the ground; in the evening they appear at the heads. The small larvae or maggots which they produce are afterwards found in the grain, and are no larger than a fine cambric needle, nor more than an eighth of an inch long. 2. An answer to this question will be found on p. 268 of the Country Gentleman, current volume.]

**THE WOOL-GROWER.**—Is there any such paper as the Wool-Grower, printed by D. D. T. Moore of Rochester, or any other publisher, and at what price? C. H. J. [Mr. Moore's Stock Register was discontinued two or three years since; but there is a monthly sheet issued at Cleveland, O., at, we believe, (for we cannot find a copy of the paper,) 25 cents a year.]

**PRINCE ALBERT POTATOES.**—Can I get some Prince Albert potatoes nearer than New-Jersey? C. E. K. [They were grown to some extent in this vicinity the past season, and we presume will be for sale at our seed stores in the spring.]

**BEES.**—Will you please to inform me through your paper, the price and postage of the best work on the management of bees. A SUBSCRIBER. [Quinby's "Mysteries of Bee-Keeping Explained" is a valuable work—price \$1, sent postpaid.]

**A CURE FOR SWEENEY.**—In answer to an inquiry in the Cultivator. Take equal parts of balsam of sulphur and spirits of turpentine. Mix, apply, and hold a hot iron near enough to heat but not to scorch. Apply every other day till a cure is effected—usually from ten days to two weeks. W. DENNIS.

**NEW SPRING WHEAT WANTED.**—I would like to get a new variety of spring wheat. We have the Canada Club, Mammoth, Red River and Black Sea. We ought to have a change here. Can some one inform me of a better variety, and whether it is smooth or bearded? C. E. K. Davenport, Iowa.

#### Proper Age for Fattening Swine.

EDS. CO. GENT.—In a recent article on "Fattening Swine," you invite the communication of the views of farmers on different branches of the subject—among them that of the proper age for bringing pork to the knife. I have my ideas on this question, and would submit them in brief to your readers.

Pigs, eight or nine months old, if properly managed, will make cheap and excellent pork. By fattening them at this age, the trouble and expense of wintering over is saved—performing that operation, as ALLEN says, "by the cheapest mode—in the pork barrel," where

they are more likely to be eaten, than to eat (as they often do when alive,) more than their value in the spring. When the object of raising swine is to make pork of them, that end should be kept steadily in view—Piggy himself should see it and eat for it. Feed a decent pig well from weaning until nine months old, and you will get 200 lbs. to 325 lbs. of pork, and you do not often get 50 lbs. more from those ten months older. This keeping swine eighteen or twenty months to fatten them the last three, is not often a paying business. There is no question that an animal must consume much more to produce in eighteen months only about the same quantity of meat made by another from half that time of feeding.

Some breeds of porkers, and some specimens of the same breed (so far as parentage is concerned,) mature much earlier than others—can be fattened sooner and easier. Such should be selected for wintering under the brine, and should receive careful attention, so that their growth may be constant and rapid. Besides supplying slops from the dairy and kitchen, windfalls of the orchard, &c, one should save over a quantity of corn, rye, or barley, so as to give them one feeding daily of meal wet in sour milk, if it is to be had, and allowed to stand until fermentation commences. By this course, a friend who has practiced fattening spring pigs for family pork for twenty-five years, says he usually averages 225 lbs of pork at nine months old, of the very best quality. He finds it advantageous, also, from the fact that he gets the benefit of warm weather for fattening, and saves the long expense of winter feeding, when much of the food consumed goes merely to support the animal heat.

To keep a pig growing one must keep him "comfortable," so that he is either eating or sleeping—allowing him, of course, time for exercise, but none for squealing after food. To do this, there is nothing like "change and variety;" now a little corn, then a little milk, a few boiled potatoes, a few raw apples, now a pudding, then a dish of greens—anything and everything to keep them eating and stuffing all they can digest, and no more. Anything for waste begets bad habits, and bad habits in a pig are as disagreeable as in higher animals. B. F. Niagara Co.

#### Cures for Spavin.

**FRIEND TUCKER & SON.**—Seeing an inquiry from a subscriber for cure for spavin in horses, I send you the following, which I have frequently tested, and have never known it to fail of effecting a cure on a young horse, if timely and rightly applied.

Take the root of the common poke, (*Phytolacca decandra*)—wash it clean, then cut it into thin slices, and boil it in urine till it becomes quite strong. With this decoction bathe the part two or three times a day, till a cure is effected, rubbing it hard downwards with the hand. It should not be used so strong or so frequently as to take off the hair.

**Another Cure:** Take camphor and dissolve it in spirits of turpentine, to be applied till the hair starts, but not to blister severely. Then let the horse rest a few days. WILSON DENNIS.

— From a notice in the Ohio Cultivator. Tile Draining seems to be increasing in that state. Mention is made of three establishments for tile making, all of which bid fair to succeed.

## Notes for the Month.

**THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN FOR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.**—The Executive Officer of one of the most flourishing County Ag. Societies in this country—situated in one of the best-farmed districts of Pennsylvania, recently wrote as follows:

"I expect to send you more names for the **COUNTRY GENTLEMAN** from our Society for next year, than will be done by any other Agricultural Society in the United States. I shall address a circular on the subject to every member, offering him the paper at Club rates, *for I do not know ANY BETTER WAY TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF OUR SOCIETY, than to induce our members to read the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.*"

It is proper to add that the writer of the above is not only well qualified to judge of that whereof he speaks, from his long experience in conducting the affairs of an Ag. Society, but also from actual *observation of the results produced by the circulation of the Co. GENT. and THE CULTIVATOR.* He has been in the habit of ordering both our journals for several years past, and his orders have shown a constant annual increase until now, as will be seen above, he is taking measures to multiply their number still farther, and to extend their influence over a wider surface. We desire to commend this subject to the thoughtful consideration of the Managers of other Societies. Our Journals are not local in their character. We hope, through a circulation constantly enlarging in every part of the Union, to render them more useful in, and make them contain a greater amount of matter practically adapted to every part of it, than can be obtained at the same prices from any other source.

It is to the Agricultural Press that Agricultural Societies owe in a great measure their success—at least it may be said without fear of contradiction, that they are co-workers together in a cause which may be best advanced by their mutual efforts. By offering our Journals as Premiums, and by the means alluded to in the above extract, much may be accomplished. Our terms to Agricultural Societies are the same as those to Clubs of ten, viz., \$1.65 per copy for the Co. GENT. and REGISTER, and \$1.50 per copy for the Co. GENT. without the REGISTER. For the CULTIVATOR with the REGISTER, 52 cents per copy; for the CULTIVATOR without the REGISTER, 38 cents per copy. Those into whose hands this paper comes, if not officers of Agricultural Societies themselves, are earnestly requested to suggest the subject to their friends who do occupy that position before the public. Specimen numbers of our Journals and a copy of the *Annual Register* will be sent for examination to any one applying for this purpose.

**FARMERS SHOULD KEEP ACCOUNTS.**—One of our best practical farmers—one who began with nothing but a "sound mind in a sound body," and who has proved that farming can be made profitable by his own practice, writes us as follows:—"I believe it would be an excellent practice if farmers would pay greater attention to ascertaining more accurately the cost of their crops. It would be a stimulant to better cultivation and larger crops. No intelligent man will carry on any business long at a loss, and no one needs to if he will only count the cost as he goes along. He will either economize and exert himself to bring some means

to bear upon his business to render it more productive, or abandon it. Farming never need be abandoned in this country as an unprofitable business by any one that knows how to do it in a proper way, but there are thousands that deceive themselves in the profits by not counting *all* the cost. It is, in my opinion, important to occasionally call their attention to these things, and cause them to think more, and get more into a system of keeping a profit and loss account with the farm."

**ST. HELENA POTATOES.**—I want you should accept a small box of potatoes from me. I raised 125 bushels of them. I got the seed from the *Island of St. Helena* four years ago. They are good to yield and good to cook. I call them St. Helena, and if you know any better name for them please give it. HORACE WARREN. *South Lansing, Tompkins Co., N. Y.*

The box came to hand last week. The potatoes are excellent, and are, we are inclined to believe, identical with those we have received from Mr. HOWATT and Mr. McMAHON, under the name of Prince Alberts.

**SENDING STRAWBERRY PLANTS BY MAIL.**—The plants of Wilson's Albany Seedling strawberry which were mailed for me on the 28th ult., by Mr. RICHARDSON of your city, came safely to hand on the 3d inst., looking as fresh as though they had just been taken out of the ground. I planted them on the 4th, and from present appearances I do not expect to lose one plant, for they look vigorous and well—I placed them alongside Peabody's Seedling, so that I could test the merits of both. THOMAS PRYCE. *La Grange, Missouri, Oct. 6.*

**FINE SOUTH DOWNS FOR THE WEST.**—The Hon. JOHN WENTWORTH of Chicago, has added to the extensive herds and flocks on his large farm near that city, the two years old and yearling South Down rams, which received the first prizes at the late State Fair at Syracuse. They were purchased of SAMUEL THORNE of Thorndale, by whom they were bred. They were both by his celebrated imported ram "112," and from ewes also from the flock of Jonas Webb of Braham

**FINE GRAPES.**—Dr. H. H. FARLEY of the Union-Springs Vineyard, will please accept our thanks for a box of excellent Isabella and Catawba grapes from his admirably managed grounds, of which we gave an account a few weeks since. We never saw grapes of these two varieties more thoroughly ripened, or of more perfect flavor—many of the berries of the Isabella measured full *four fifths* of an inch in diameter, although grown without any forcing process, but with good culture and pruning merely.

**THE INFORMATION OUR FARMERS WANT.**—A correspondent says—"Reliable and useful facts are what the people need, and are pleased with. If A. grows 134 bushels of corn on one acre of ground, and only 30 bushels on the residue of his farm, it affords no satisfaction to the common farmer, who may have been able to grow a few hills equally luxuriant; but when with such expense as any farmer may afford, you show how 75 bushels or upwards are obtained from that land, which formerly grew under the common tillage only 30 or 40 bushels upon each acre, the knowledge is interesting, and will have its effect upon so large a number, that one feels highly compensated for all experiments in improving and increasing crops."

Mr. M. C. MORDOFF of Rochester, N. Y., has purchased of Mr. SAMUEL THORNE, Thorndale, the

"Prince of Oxford," by Duke of Gloster, dam Maid of Oxford. He was the First Prize yearling bull at Syracuse—a very promising fellow.

**HEAVY LAMB.**—Messrs. CHARLES & VAN METER, of the Center Market in this city, exhibited in their stalls last week, a very superior lamb, raised by Mr. B. FILKIN, of Rensselaer county—a cross of Leicester and South Down. It was dropped May 10, and ran with the ewe on grass, without grain, until it was killed on the 10th of Nov. The carcass weighed 77 lbs., or 19½ lbs. per quarter. They paid for it—carcass, 77 lbs. at 8 cents, \$6.16—skin \$1.50—8 lbs. tallow at 6½ cents, 0.52—making a total of \$8.18 for a six months lamb. Can any one beat this?

**HONEY.**—Mr. M. QUINBY of St. Johnsville, N. Y., who, as our readers know, has written a Bee-Book, and is a frequent contributor to our "Apiary," not only writes about bees, but is a very successful keeper of them, as all will believe when informed that he has this year sold 18,000 lbs. surplus, and 2,500 lbs. of strained honey—all produced by himself and such of his neighbors as he can induce to follow his example.

**THE OAT CROP OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND.**—It is stated that such has been the severity of the drought during the spring and summer in France, that they do not expect to thresh more than *one-sixth* of the average yield of oats, and barley is about equally injured. All fodder is scarce, and farmers are seeking to make the most of it by every available method. In England, a correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* estimates the yield of their crop at *one-third* the usual product, and states that with an importation of oats of upwards of 200,000 quarters [1,600,000 bushels] in three weeks into London, the price had not given away, and some of the largest factors on *Mark Lane* were buying all the oats they could lay their hands on. So it seems other countries are equally short of oats with ourselves, but have not, as with us, the great crop of Indian corn to fall back upon.

**DEATH OF "LORD DUCIE."**—Doct. HERMAN WENDELL of this city, recently met with a severe loss in the death of this celebrated imported Short-Horn bull. A post mortem examination showed that his disease was what is called "Bright's disease of the kidneys." In every other respect he was entirely sound. He had proved himself an excellent sire, and we are pleased to know that several young animals of his get, male and female, are growing up to maintain his credit. The head of "Lord Ducie" is now in preparation by Mr. HUNST, the State Taxidermist, and will form a prominent and much admired feature in the Museum of our Ag. Society, to which Dr. W. proposes to present it. The life-like appearance it already wears under the skillful hands of Mr. H., is such as might have been expected from his well known skill in this beautiful art.

**COLORED FRUITS AND FLOWERS.**—We have received a Catalogue of Colored Fruits and Flowers published by D. M. Dewy of Rochester, N. Y., embracing 184 varieties of saleable Fruits and Flowers, which are manufactured by him, for the use of Nurserymen and Tree Agents. Specimens of these plates have been sent us; they are well executed, and will supply a want long felt by those interested in the dissemination of improved fruits. Address Mr. D. as above.

**THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN**—"DONT STOP IT," says an Illinois subscriber, "if I happen to be negli-

gent about renewing my subscription at any future time, for I would not be without it *for twice its cost*. It contains, I think, more reliable information for the farmer than any of the *nine papers* I have taken the past year."

**SPEED THE PLOW.**—In an article upon "American Plows," the *New-England Farmer* mentions the vast business done by one house alone in Boston, in manufacturing plows for foreign markets. The writer states that within a twelve-month, *two thousand plows*, with steel plate mould-boards, have been sent to one customer of this house, for a single port, with a prospect of still heavier orders in the future. The same establishment lately accepted an order to furnish a large amount of plows of various patterns, (which order was filled in an incredibly short space of time,) and they are now on their way to Africa, "perhaps to turn up the fertile soil which has so long been supposed to be an inhospitable desert." Some one familiar with the operations constantly going on east and west, in plow-making, might contribute a most interesting chapter on this extensive trade; the number of plows annually turned out in the Western States, as well as New-England, must be enormous.

**A NOVEL DIPLOMA AND GOOD SHOW.**—*Eds. Cultivator*—I send you a sample of the diploma that our Agricultural and Horticultural Association have awarded as premiums on the different articles exhibited at our first "Cattle Show and Fair," held at this place on the 28th of Sept., '58. It gives better satisfaction than the diplomas generally given on such occasions, and it is something new. The blanks are filled up by the Editor of our village paper. We are a young Society, and as this was only a Town Exhibition, we could not afford to go to much expense for premiums. These cost about 20 cents apiece, and we have awarded 375 of them. Our Exhibition was a very successful affair, and there was a good show of cattle, although not a large collection. The show of fruit was very large, and of the best quality, and superior to the New-Hampshire State Fair held at Dover this year. There was also a good display of needle-work and fancy articles, and last, though not least, a very good display of woollen goods from the Salisbury Mills. W. P. Amesbury Mills, Mass., Nov. 12. [The Diploma sent is singular but neat—printed in raised figures and type of three colors upon blue cloth.]

**COMPOST OF MUCK AND ASHES.**—Writing to the *Boston Cultivator*, C. W. MACOMBER says he has found the following compost very effective and enduring upon gravelly and sandy soils—fully equal to the best barn-cellars manure, and excellent as a surface dressing to all grass lands:—Take good swamp muck dug one year previous and exposed to the action of the weather, place it in layers with good wood ashes at the rate of sixteen bushels of the latter to one cord of the former. The layers of muck should be about six inches thick, and after remaining heaped two weeks, the whole should be thoroughly mixed and brought into a like condition.

**EXCHANGING SEEDS.**—I find the interchange of seeds, as I proposed in my "report," published in your journals, works admirably. I have received many letters from your subscribers, giving an account of the extraordinary growth and productiveness of some of the plants from seeds received from us. Our seeds too,

that we received in exchange, the most of them that I planted, have done remarkably well. I have many rare plants worthy of note, but cannot now mention them. I think your journals must have a large circulation, for I received applications for seeds, by exchange or otherwise, from every State and Territory in the Union, and many from Canada. I also received seeds from each State and Territory in exchange for ours—some 400 different varieties—from which I selected for planting the past season, those I thought most worthy of trial and cultivation. I find it requires much care and labor. L. NORRIS. Windsor, O.

**PLAN OF A HOUSE.**—Our correspondent at Zilwaukee, Mich., sends us a plan for a dwelling, very neatly drawn, and which has some decided conveniences. There are also some serious defects; and, as it is "offered for criticism," we may briefly mention that the only bed-room on the main floor is required to be entered through the dining-room, and all the water, slops, &c., carried out through it. In a small cottage, this would be of less consequence; but in this plan, where there are eleven rooms, besides entries and closets, and where there is expected and required a correspondingly commodious arrangement, it becomes a more formidable defect. Another is the location of the bath-room, which is in the extreme corner of the kitchen wing, entered only from the kitchen, and flanked by the pantry and store-room, and quite remote from the lower bed-room and all other apartments. A bath-room which is daily used, and generally in the morning, should be easily accessible from the nursery or bed-room. Still another objection, is the position of the wood-house, with the bath-room and pantry between it and the kitchen, but with apparently no other connection between them.

Mr. E. CORNELL's recent purchases of S. P. CHAPMAN, Esq., comprise Apricot, (\$500.) Lady Booth, (\$510.) Bright Eyes 8th, (\$400) and Duke of Oxford (\$1,500.) We learn from Mr. CORNELL that his herd now comprises about 20 females and 3 or 10 bulls. He began this year the system of letting his bulls, and has found it work very satisfactorily. The yearlings were let at from \$30 to \$40, and limited to 20 cows; two year olds were let at about \$100 each, and limited to 50 cows—the parties hiring at the expense of keeping. The bulls were returned in excellent order, and Mr. C. thinks that another year the prices obtained will be from 30 to 50 per cent. higher—so well do the farmers of Tompkins county like the result of this year's experiment. The commencement thus made can but open the way to great improvement in the stock of that vicinity, and we are pleased to know that there is sufficient encouragement to justify the annual letting in future of the males from this Short-Horn herd. Mr. Cornell's residence is at Ithaca.

**A REMEDY "SURE AND PRACTICAL"**—One of those who have actually "discovered" unfailing remedies for the Potato Rot, is Mr. ALDEN SPOONER of Fitchburg, Mass. He repudiates bugs altogether—careful observation never having revealed a single insect that he could justly "challenge as the aggressor." The atmosphere he says is miasmatic, and has poisoned the surface soil. "Certain subtle acid gases" have been imparted to the potato, and have communicated to it disease and decay. Seriously, however, Mr. S. is straightforward and practical in telling his experience

as long as he sticks to that, and is desirous of having his recommendations thoroughly tested. He is only ridiculous when he attempts to theorize and ventures upon philosophy. Whether his "remedy" would everywhere prove as certain as it has during eight years' trial with him, may not be "sure;" it is very simple, however, and doubtless in many localities could be tried with the best results. It consists in inverting the soil as thoroughly as possible, bringing up the subsoil—even if this apparently "buries all the rich old surface beneath cold red and yellow dirt;" manuring with fine barn-yard manure composted with refuse straw and hay, swamp muck and ashes, together with plaster of Paris; having his land in good tilth; thus "loosening and pulverizing the ground to a depth of from twelve to eighteen inches, and permitting the roots to descend so deeply as to be secure from injury by flood, or drought, &c." All this treatment he is aware is old and has been long practiced to advantage—with the exception of the *inverting process*, and herein lies his "discovery"—the protection against the disease, arising from the fact that "by the inverted method the tubers are secured from disease in the fresh and virgin soil on the surface, and the roots descend into the old rich, former surface, equally protected from excess of wet or drouth. Thus a vigorous growth is imparted to the whole plant, and an abundant and sound crop of potatoes has been the result in all my experiments by this process." Mr. SPOONER's detailed experience and recommendations have been printed in pamphlet form, and we presume copies may be had by addressing him as above, although nothing is said as to price. He is desirous of taking that prize offered some time ago by the Mass. Legislature, a committee of which already has his claims under examination.

#### Fawkes' Steam Plow in Illinois.

We have deferred noticing the recent operations of this machine, hoping to have met with a fuller description than has yet appeared. From the engraving in Emery's Journal and the article appended, we find that this Steam Plow has three wheels—two in front, used as guiders, and one, the driver, behind. They are all said to be about five feet in diameter—but the proportions of the cut do not represent them so large; the first two are a foot wide, and the driver six feet, the latter thus presenting a large surface to the ground, and being in addition barrel-shaped to facilitate the turning of corners. It draws six plows, each cutting a furrow one foot wide—"hung in a frame at the rear of the engine—each one independent of the other, and drawn by separate rods attached to the rear of the engine. In order to keep the plows close to their work in uneven or irregular surfaces, strong coiled springs are placed on the suspending rods. With the ropes and pulleys, the whole gang of plows are instantly raised from the ground and let down again." Glowing accounts are given of the successful operation of this machine at its trial during the Illinois State Fair at Centralia—although the soil was an "almost impervious" one, presenting a "brick-like surface." The inventor is Mr. J. W. FAWKES of Lancaster, Pa., and he is competing for the five thousand dollars offered by the Ill. State Ag. Society for a successful Steam Plow. If he has accomplished all that is claimed for him, we shall have occasion hereafter to chronicle his further triumphs and to accompany them with more particulars than we are now able to give.

**How to Winter Bees.**

**MESSRS. EDITORS**—Noticing weekly the articles in your Apiary Department, and keeping a great many bees myself, suggests to me that it would be of interest to your readers to know how to winter their bees through, without being subject to the great loss which generally occurs by death from frost and dampness.

We have in this town a farmer, Mr. P. J. FURLONG, who keeps a great many bees, and had always been subject to much loss during winter. Like most other Yankees, he set to work thinking and whistling, and finally got up a perfect bee-preserved, very cheap and handy. I have had one in use the whole season, and am very much pleased with it. He calls it his Condensing Bee-hive; and it well maintains the name. Its properties are, that through the winter it keeps the bees perfectly dry, by condensing and carrying off by little troughs the dampness in the atmosphere and from the breath of the bees, (which in ordinary hives drops down on the bees and freezes upon them, causing their death.) The condenser is a glass slope roof, inside the flat roof of the hive, upon which the moisture collects, condenses, and trickles down into little tin troughs, which conduct the water outside the hive. There are other peculiarities about the hive, new and valuable, but I am only speaking of its value as a preserver of bees during the winter. They can be got up very cheaply, material and labor costing no more than twelve shillings each hive. I bought an individual right of Mr. Furlong, (who patented it June 1st, after a thorough trial,) and now I shall this winter make for myself a lot of these hives, so as to be ready for next year's use. I make them now, because spring will bring its own work. **MATTHEW MACKIE.** *Clyde, Wayne Co., N. Y.*

**Falling of the Womb in Cows.**

I saw a request for any person who had any experience in the case there mentioned, (falling of the womb,) to give the same. I had a very fine cow a few years ago which was in that situation, and I took some warm water and cleansed the protruded part, and replaced it as well as I could, but could not get it to stay there, until I took a stitch in each side of the outer part of the urethra, with a small cord and a strong needle, and tied the two ends together. I had to serve my cow thus about three times during three years, each time when she was about half gone with calf. I have advised some of my neighbors to do in the same manner, with success so far as I ever heard. **A VIRGINIAN.**

**ANDRE LEROY'S NURSERIES,  
At ANGERS, FRANCE.**

The proprietor of these Nurseries—the most extensive in Europe—has the honor to inform his numerous friends and the public, that his Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Seedlings, Fruit Stocks, &c., for the present season, is now ready and at their disposition.

The experience which he has acquired in the last ten years, by numerous and important invoices to the U. S., and the especial culture which he has established for that market, upon an area of over 300 acres, are for his customers a sure guarantee of the proper and faithful execution of their orders.

Apply as heretofore to **F. A. BRUGUIERE**, 138 Pearl Street, New-York, his sole Agent in the U. S.

**NOTE.** —All advertisements or circulars bearing the name of Leroy, Angers, must not be considered as emanating from our house, if they do not at the same time mention that Mr. F. A. BRUGUIERE is our Agent. Address **F. A. BRUGUIERE**, New-York.

Sep. 2—w&m4m. **ANDRE LEROY**, Angers, France.

Read the PROPOSAL at the foot of this. 

**T H E N E W-Y O R K O B S E R V E R,**  
**The Largest Newspaper in the World.**  
**NATIONAL, CONSERVATIVE, RELIGIOUS,**  
**Belonging to no Party in Politics and to no Sect in Religion.**

Edited by a Corps of Clergymen and Laymen of large experience, having the most Eminent Writers of the day among its regular contributors, and a Foreign Correspondence unrivaled. It is the most complete

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The RELIGIOUS paper is filled with the choicest original and selected matter in every department of Christian Literature; making a delightful SABBATH companion, and furnishing a volume of interesting and instructive reading every week. The best and most accomplished Clergymen, Presidents and Professors in our Colleges and Seminaries, constantly contribute to its pages. One of its chief features of attraction is a Summary of Intelligence from

**ALL RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS**; a feature peculiar to the *Observer*, and highly valued by Christians who wish to know what is doing in other communions than their own.

The grand object of the **NEW-YORK OBSERVER** is to promote "peace on earth and good-will among men." For this end it seeks to advance all those principles which make the UNION OF THE STATES more firm and permanent; it cultivates harmony and good feeling among ALL DENOMINATIONS of Christians; and is a fearless defender of the rights of all men, under the Constitution of the United States and the Word of God.

In its Editorial discussion, its foreign and domestic correspondence, the vigor and beauty of its original contributions, and the attractions of its several departments in science, literature, art, agriculture, and commerce, the **NEW-YORK OBSERVER** is determined not to be surpassed by any newspaper in any country.

Resisting radicalism in Church and State, promoting revivals of pure religion and every wholesome moral reform, on Scriptural and rational principles, discarding and opposing all schisms, humbugs, fanaticism, and every scheme of infidelity, socialism, and vice, the **NEW-YORK OBSERVER** designs to be a safeguard of virtue, law, and order, a champion of truth and righteousness in the earth.

It is the CHEAPEST newspaper of its class that is published. Both the secular and religious papers are sent for *two dollars and fifty cents*, in advance. Two families uniting in taking it, as many do, will each get a complete newspaper for \$1.25!!!

**PROPOSALS FOR SOLICITING SUBSCRIBERS.**

To any who will obtain new subscribers for us, we will pay the following liberal commissions.—For five new subscribers *paying in advance*, fifty cents each. For more than five and less than ten, seventy-five cents each; for more than ten one dollar each. We will send a copy of our Bible Atlas, with colored maps, on paper of large size and best quality, to each new subscriber, on the receipt of his name and payment for one year.

If you cannot give personal attention to this work, will you show this advertisement to some clergyman or layman who will take an interest in it, to whom we will give the commissions mentioned above.

We will send specimen numbers without charge.

Your early attention is solicited to this subject, and we shall be happy to hear from you immediately, as we desire to offer the paper at once to every family in the United States.

**SIDNEY E. MORSE & CO.**

Editors and Proprietors,

Nov. 18—*weow3tm1* 138 Nassau-st., New-York.

**Horticultural Books.**

Of all kinds, for sale at the Office of the Co. Gentleman.

**PORTABLE STEAM ENGINES!**  
PORTABLE STEAM SAW MILLS!

From 5000 to 10,000 Feet of Lumber per Day!!

**BLANDY'S STEAM ENGINE WORKS,**  
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**STEAM ENGINES FOR THE PEOPLE!**

First Premium, Silver Medal, Ohio State Fair, 1857; cutting in the presence of the awarding Committee and thousands of spectators, 218 feet lumber in 8 minutes!

OHIO STATE FAIR, 1858.

First Premium for Portable Steam Engines!  
First Premium for Portable Steam Saw Mills!!

**Steam Engines for Farm and Mechanical Use.**

*Portable Steam Engine, Patented Aug. 3, 1858.*

We invite the attention of the People to our Portable Steam Engines, designed expressly for their use; so simple in construction that they can operate them without the assistance of experienced Engineers; so cheap as to come within their means; so light that they are easily removed, very durable, and burning any kind of fuel.

We have invested in tools, patterns, &c., over

**\$100,000**

in our establishment, and consequently produce our machinery at the lowest possible cost.

Our Portable Circular Saw Mills are built after the most approved models, with saw of any diameter, Iron or Wooden head blocks, belting, &c., &c., completely equipped for running as they leave the works.

There is no business with which we are acquainted, that pays so well as operating our Portable Saw Mills. It is quite common to clear the whole first cost within the first half year's run. The reports of the operators are so extraordinary that we prefer to let them speak for themselves in the annexed statements from recent correspondence:

*Sharpsburg, Ky., 13th July, 1858.*

\* \* \* We are doing well, and well pleased with our Engine and Mill. A resident of Fleming county came expressly to see our mill in operation. He says we can make plank faster than any mill in the State, and was the best pleased man we ever saw. We have made enough to pay for our mill already. JOHN W. & THOMAS ARNETT.

*Somerset, Perry County, Ohio, 30th May, 1858.*

\* \* \* We are cutting from four to seven thousand feet per day in hard oak, and we think we can cut more lumber than any mill that now runs. We cut during this month 100,000 feet, and can do it one month with another the year through. We need hardly add that the Mill and Engine give us satisfaction. MATHEWS, SHIRLEY & CO.

*Hillsborough, Ohio, 9th May, 1858.*

\* \* \* We are sawing from 5000 to 6000 feet per day, which we think is doing well. We had a visitor last Monday from a long distance, who came to see us work, because he did not believe a mill with a single saw could cut what was reported. He was deeply prejudiced in favor of the double saw. We fired up and put up some poplar logs on the mill, and cut 1532 feet (1 inch boards) in one hour and fifty minutes. This convinced him that the double saw was too complicated, and that our mill made lumber fast enough and good enough to satisfy him.

S. B. JOHNSON.

*Circleville, Ohio, 27th July, 1858.*

\* \* \* We sawed with four hands, 1560  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch boards in 59 minutes, and can for \$50 cut 2000 feet in one hour. If you have anybody that beats that send me word.

J. T. WOODROW.

*Cherry Valley, Wilson Co., Tenn., 5th June, 1858.*

\* \* \* It is a decided point that yours is the best and most durable Engine that is made. Dunlap says his first and Blandy's next; I say Blandy's first and Dunlap's next. I will let you know what the old Durham bull, as our Engine is called, does occasionally.

JOS. YOUNG.

*Columbus, Mississippi, 3rd July, 1858.*

\* \* \* I have received your eight-horse Engine, and find it most excellent after giving it a good test.

M. R. LEMMON.

*Henry Co., Tenn., Sept. 11, 1858.*

\* \* \* We have sawed in three hours 3500 feet, and yesterday, being Saturday, sawed in seven hours 5000 feet and walked to Paris,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

A. HALL.

*Windsor, Morgan Co., Ohio, 11th June, 1858.*

\* \* \* They timed us, and found we cut 525 feet in 20 minutes.

JOSHUA BINGHAM.

*Paris, Tenn., 12th Sept., 1858.*

We have numberless visitors every day. \* \* \* Your guarantee of 4000 feet per day I would not give one far-

thing for. \* \* \* We cut easily with good hands 6000 feet per day, and for brag days we can cut 10,000 feet. I have no doubt yours is the very best saw mill in use.

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Nov. 4—w&m

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